

**KIDS!****Free tickets to Moscow Torpedo****ON PAGE 4
FOR FRIDAY****AUSTRALIAN**THE PAPER THAT
PRINTS ALL YEAR**\$1.60**

SOCCER

WEEKLY

Vol 11 No 413 — WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1990

• POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 408, BROADWAY, NSW 2007
• TELEPHONE: (02) 660 2033 • FAX: (02) 692 0649 • TELEX: AA22141

Registered by Australia Post — Publication No NBQ5726

TORPEDO A BIG TEST



The famous Moscow Torpedo squad, complete with their management team. At right, centre row, manager Yuri Zolotov. Next to him is head coach Valentin Ivanov, whose experience can be gauged from the fact that he is the club's former captain and all-time highest scorer. In addition, he is a former national team captain and was one of Europe's best players in the 1950s.

AUSTRALIA'S march towards reaching the near unthinkable heights of competing in the World Cup finals in the United States begins with Friday night's Sydney Football Stadium clash with Moscow Torpedo.

And the Socceroo squad will have a further sharpener

against the technically outstanding Russian side a fortnight later at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

In between times Torpedo visits Perth and Wollongong, with a possibility of an extra match as well.

The Torpedo tour brings together a "new look" Australian squad — a situation occasioned by the absence of national team stars in Europe and a

crop of injuries to others who have had their aspirations damped by injuries sustained in club matches.

Frank Farina, Eddie Krnevic and David Mitchell are in the former category, whilst Oscar Crino, Paul Trimboli, Warren Spink and Rod Brown have suffered untimely knocks.

Jeff Olver, apparently out of action until the Victorian Super League com-

BY KEITH GILMOUR

mences, is distinctly unlucky.

Alan Davidson has unfortunately retired from the international scene he has graced for so long, whilst Wally Savor missed squad selection.

Players like Tom McCulloch, Ian Gray and Alex Tobin may well receive the chance to cement their positions.

Bob Catlin, the

NSL's goalkeeper of the year to date, has the opportunity to claim his spot, with Manchester United's No 2 keeper behind Scottish international Jim Leighton. Mark Bosnich, as the backup.

Naturally, and just as was the case with the very tentative start of the 1990 World Cup cycle against Czechoslovakia in 1986, the future of many players will be under review.

Coach Frank Arok has had some limitations on his choice of players and is anxious to see them living up to his best expectations.

There are other strong Socceroo match possibilities in the pipeline.

Australian Soccer Federation general secretary Alan Vessey said that negotiations are continuing to follow up the NSL finals with some topline visitors to give more ex-

perience to the new Socceroos.

"Some of the approaches have been made directly to us, and others are through agents.

"Our particular contact is with Keith D'Arcy of KAM Sports Marketing in England.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 18**



Australia's Socceroos, photographed by ASW's Hector Carrasco, at their last outing on April 16, 1989, when they exited from the World Cup after drawing 1-1 with Israel before a capacity crowd at Sydney Football Stadium. Only Graham Arnold, Gary van Egmond, Paul Wade and Charlie Yankos are in the new-look 18 man squad for the Moscow Torpedo game.

LATEST QUIT NSL REPORTS — PAGES 4/7 →

Torpedo to thrill in repeat Aussie visit

BY LOU GAUTIER

TORPEDO Moscow, now touring Australia for the second time, is one of the Soviet Union's glamour clubs and have never been relegated from the First Division.

The club, however, has not regained its form of the 1960s when they ruled the roost back home and produced some of the USSR's greatest players of all time.

Torpedo are one of three top clubs in the Soviet capital, Moscow, where Dynamo and especially Spartak have a huge following and an outstanding record.

Spartak won the league for the 12th time last season while Torpedo have to go back to 1976 for their last championship.

They were more successful in Cup competition, though, having won that event in 1986.

They were also beaten finalists last year, which enabled them to qualify for the current European Cup-Winners' Cup, where they bowed out in the second round to Grasshoppers Zurich, of Switzerland.

Having finished fifth in the recently concluded Soviet championship, Torpedo clinched a spot in next season's UEFA Cup.

Torpedo are amongst the country's most travelled club sides, having visited all five continents.

In 1965 they created a tremendous impression when they played in Australia and were undefeated.

They play in white shirts, black shorts and



A flashback to Torpedo's 1965 tour: Muscovite captain Boris Batanov and Sydney skipper Les Scheinflug exchange gifts before the 1-1 draw at the Sydney Showground.

green socks and have a giant Cyrillic 'T' on their jerseys.

They are sponsored by the giant Torpedo motorworks.

Torpedo's current team is one of the youngest in the USSR First Division and head coach Valentin Ivanov, one of the greatest players ever to appear for the club, is confident he has the makings of a team which can soon add another national title.

There is some doubt as to whether Torpedo's only current international, Yuri Savichev, will come to Australia as the national team is now preparing for the World Cup finals in the United States.

They should be ideal opponents for the match-starved Socceroos.

Soviet football is amongst the best in the world and in Torpedo it will have an excellent ambassador.

Welcome, Torpedo!

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P.O. BOX 406 BROADWAY NSW 2007
★ Tel: (02) 660 2033 ★ FAX: (02) 692 0649

★ TELEX: AA22141
Published every Wednesday by Foreign Language Publications Pty. Ltd.
(A company incorporated in New South Wales)
1-9 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe NSW 2037.

DISTRIBUTION:
NSW/ACT: Mirror Australian Telegraph Publications,
2 Holt St, Sydney 2010. Tel (02) 288 3000. VICTORIA:
Southdown Press, 32 Walsh St, West Melbourne 3003.
Tel: (03) 320 7000. QUEENSLAND: Queensland Newspapers, Campbell St, Bowen Hills 4006. Tel: (07) 252 6011. SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Advertiser Newspapers Ltd Waymouth St, Adelaide 5000. Tel: (08) 218 9329.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA: West Australian Newspapers Ltd, 125 St George Terrace, Perth 6000. Tel (09) 321 0161.

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Telephone: (03) 416 1255
FAX: (03) 419 2870

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—Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is Thursday morning of the WEEK PRIOR to issue date.

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The Torpedo Tourists

Goalkeepers	Born	1st grade matches	Goals
VALERI SARICHEV	1960	94	0
DMITRI GULENKOV	1968	0	0
VLADIMIR PCHELNICKOV	1970	3	0

Defence	Born	1st grade matches	Goals
ALEXANDER POLUKAROV	1959	307	23
VALENTIN KOVACH	1961	158	7
OLEG TARASOV	1970	0	0
VADIM ROGOVSKOI	1962	29	0
MIKHAIL SOLOVYER	1968	1	0
SERGEI MAKEEV	1966	0	0
GENNADY FILIMONOV	1962	0	0
ANDREI AFANASYEV	1964	37	1

Midfielders	Born	1st grade matches	Goals
YURI SAVICHEV	1965	89	28
NIKOLAI SAVICHEV	1965	97	19
DMITRI CHUNGUNOV	1968	10	0
VLADIMIR GRECHNYEV	1964	88	22
SERGEI AGASHKOV	1962	127	15
OLEG SHIRINBEKOV	1963	59	9
IGOR CHUNGAINOV	1970	2	0
MAKSIM CHELSTOV	1970	3	0
SERGEI ZHUKOV	1967	19	0
SERGEI SHUSTIKOV	1970	1	0
ALEKSEI AREFYEV	1971	0	0
DMITRI ULIANOV	1970	0	0
EVGENI KNYAZHYEV	1968	0	0

Strikers	Born	1st grade matches	Goals
NIKOLAI PISARYEV	1968	29	1
GENNADY GRISHIN	1964	63	5
ALEXANDER GITSYELOV	1963	13	2
ANDREI RUDAKOV	1961	73	26
ALEXANDER KUZMICHYEV	1971	0	0
YURI TISKOV	1971	1	1

REPRESENTATIVE TEAM PLAYERS: Full international — Yuri Savichev; youth international — Dimitri Chugunov, national U/16 internationals — Oleg Tarasov, — Igor Chungainov, — Yuri Tiskov.

Moscow honours

DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

- USSR Champion — 1960, 1965, 1976
- 2nd place — 1957, 1961, 1964
- 3rd place — 1945, 1953, 1968, 1977, 1988
- 1,396 First Division matches for 575 wins, 421 draws and 410 losses
- 1,991 goals for and 1,618 against

- USSR Cup Winners — 1949, 1952, 1960, 1968, 1972, 1986
- Finalists — 1947, 1958, 1961, 1966, 1977, 1982, 1987

186 matches for 117 wins, 24 draws and 45 losses
310 goals for and 161 against

EUROPEAN COMPETITIONS

- European Cup — 4 matches, 3 draws, 1 defeat
0 goals for and 1 against
- Cup-Winners' Cup — 19 matches, 8 wins, 7 draws, 4 defeats
25 goals for and 16 against
- UEFA Cup — 12 matches, 7 wins, 2 draws, 3 defeats
26 goals for and 16 against

The team and players are holders of the following awards:

Player of the Year

- V. Voronin (1964, 1965)
- E. Strelstov (1967, 1968)

Leading Goalscorer

- G. Gusarov (1960, 1961)

Best Goalkeeper

- A. Kavazashvili (1965, 1967)
- V. Bannikov (1970)
- V. Chanov (1981)

Best New Talent

- L. Pakhomov (1967)
- G. Yanyets, U. Savchenko (1968)
- V. Abramov (1970)
- I. Zabinyak (1973)
- V. Rogovskoi (1988)

Goal of the Year

- V. Voronin (1965)
- E. Strelstov (1966)
- V. Abramov (1970)
- U. Savichev (1988)

GAMBLERS

PULL OUT!

A shock has been dealt to the programme for the tour by Moscow Torpedo.

The Gold Coast Gamblers, sponsored by the Conrad International Hotel and Jupiters Casino, announced it would be unable to stage the match scheduled for January 24.

The Gold Coast Federation has been unable to obtain the sponsorship needed to finance the match and were unprepared to "gamble" on a crowd covering expenses.

Recognised as one of the most progressive soccer areas in Queensland it seems a pity that the Gold Coast had to withdraw.

Ian Holmes, General Manager of the New South Wales Soccer Federation said: "It is regrettable that the soccer supporters on the Gold Coast won't have an opportunity to see Torpedo play but the rest of the tour will go ahead as scheduled."

"All these games will go ahead and we are looking at the possibility of one other match being staged on or around January 24."

Torpedo tour boost for idle Australians

IT is fitting that the Socceroos' first venture on to the international stage in the new decade should be at the Sydney Football Stadium when they take on Torpedo Moscow on Friday (kick-off 7.30pm).

Their last appearance was also at Sydney's premier football venue — on April 16 last year — when their World Cup dreams were shattered by Israel in that heart-breaking 1-1 draw.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then. Israel advanced no further, bow-

ing out to Colombia, while the Socceroos have been twiddling their thumbs for the nine past months.

Several of the players of the unsuccessful World Cup bid have retained their places for the Torpedo games but most of the interest will centre on Frank Arok's new faces.

The two matches against the Muscovites could be crucial to Arok's future as national coach as his contract with the ASF expires on July 31.

Arok is confident he will retain the job as well as get positive results against the Russians.

Ever the perfectionist, the Socceroo boss has been unable to get his hands on a video of Torpedo but he believes he knows enough about their style to successfully counter Valentin Ivanov's men.

The rain in Sydney has somewhat affected the Socceroos' training but Arok remains resolutely optimistic.

For several Socceroos the match against Torpedo is their big chance to press claims for permanent inclusion in the national squad, whose main objective will be to qualify for the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Others will be battling to retain their Socceroo status after many years of loyal service to country and Arok.

All have the incentive to do well against their polished opponents.

The match on Friday is likely to follow the pattern which has emerged in all games pitting the Socceroos against more technical opponents.

The Soviets are certain to create many more openings and will probably enjoy territorial domination and see much more of the ball.

But Frank Arok's players have shown — Malmö FF was a case in point last year — that they thrive on underdog status and can produce match-winning counter-attacks against world-class opposition.

Torpedo may have lost some of the lustre that made them one of Europe's top club sides in the 1960s but they re-

main the prototype of a good, solid First Division European side.

They have no weaknesses, every player is technically perfect and their team-work must invariably be superior to an Australian team which did not take the field for nine months.

They are sure to be as

impressive as their 1965 namesake and equally as formidable as their crosstown rivals, Dynamo, who toured Australia twice in the seventies, not to mention the Soviet Select seen here in 1975 — all highly accomplished tourists.

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TORPEDO ITINERARY

- January 17: v Northern NSW — International Sports Centre, Newcastle.
- January 19: v Australia — Football Stadium, Sydney.
- January 28: v Western Australia — Perry Lakes Stadium, Perth.
- January 31: v NSW — Brandon Park, Wollongong.
- February 2: v Australia, Olympic Park, Melbourne.



Alex Tobin



Zlatko Nastevski



Steve Calderan



Gary van Egmond



Charlie Yankos

Newcastle tonight

SEVERAL Sydney-based players have been selected in the Northern NSW team to play Torpedo Moscow in their Australian tour opener tonight (Jan 17) at the International Sports Centre in Newcastle.

As the game is played on a Wednesday, Northern NSW director of coaching Ken Kaiser is hopeful not all clubs will react like Sydney Croatia, who have vetoed the selection of defender Mark Jones.

Croatia were not keen to release the Newcastle-born Jones because of the injury incurred by Sean Ingham in a friendly match against the Socceroos last year.

Another player who won't be appearing for his home town is Craig Johnston, who declined selection because he felt he was not fit enough.

This is the squad for the Torpedo match: Graham Jennings, Darren Stewart, John McQuarrie, Peter Murray, Ralph Maier, David Lowe, Marshall Soper and Garry Phillips — all with Sydney NSL clubs — Steve Dorman, Ross and Scott Wells, Neil Owens, Michael Boogaard, Dennis King, Paul Waddingham.

Officials are hoping a crowd in excess of 8,000 will turn up for an all too rare international match in the Newcastle area.

— LOU GAUTIER



Mike Petersen



All-time greats

V. Shustikov played the most matches for Torpedo (427) in the USSR championships.

The highest goalscorer for the club in the championships was V. Ivanov, (now head coach), who scored 124 goals.

The club's record-breaker for one season was A. Ponamaryev, who broke 23 records in 1949.

The club has trained 13 "Honoured Masters of Soviet Sports" — P. Petrov, N. Ilin, V. Moshkarin, N. Morozov, A. Ponamaryev, A. Gomes, V. Ivanov, E. Strelstov, V. Voronin, A. Kavazashvili, V. Shustikov, U. Savichev, and A. Prudnikov.

TORPEDO TICKETS

TICKETS for the first Quit Socceroos versus Moscow Torpedo encounter at the Sydney Football Stadium on Friday, January 19 (kick off 7.30pm) are available from Tick-eck.

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1965 Torpedo tour results

TORPEDO Moscow played seven matches when they toured Australia for the first time in 1965.

They won six and were held to a 1-1 draw by a Sydney XI in Sydney in front of 25,000 spectators at the Showground.

Their tour results:

- v Australian XI W 2-0
- v Sydney D 1-1
- v Queensland W 1-0
- v SA W 3-1
- v Victoria W 4-0
- v W 4-1
- v NSW W 1-0

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Robbie Wheatley



Brilliant Pupovac

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

SOUTH Melbourne couldn't convert its superiority into goals, mainly due to some brilliant goalkeeping by Wollongong's Dragan Pupovac, as it stumbled to a scoreless draw against its defence-oriented opponents at Middle Park last Saturday evening.

Souths were always in control in a mistake-riddled first half but it just couldn't penetrate and it had to resort to long-range attempts.

Little dynamo Peter Tsolakis continued his fine summer form with an attacking display down the left wing and striker Joe Palatsides worked hard but too much was left to too few as Wollongong had the numbers in defence.

Tsolakis became immediately involved in the match with a long cross from the left finding Paul Wade's head at the far post but the attempt flew just over the top. Moments later Tsolakis hit a 30-metre long bomb which smashed into the side-netting, fooling everyone into thinking it was a goal!

Busy midfielder Wade and defender Mehmet Durakovic both had 30-metre plus cracks but keeper Pupovac, diving to his left did well to turn one of the attempts around the post.

South Melbourne

MacLaren	6
Healy	5
Durakovic	7
Blair	6
Michell	6
(Postecoglou 5)	
Wade	6
Petersen	7
Mori	6
Tsolakis	8
Palatsides	7
Michalakopoulos	6

Wollongong

Pupovac	8
McEvoy	7
Vlietstra	6
Morlando	5
Murphy	5
O'Neill	4
Skeen	4
Ratcliffe	5
Crainie	4
Easthorpe	5
McFadden	4

Yellow cards: R. Easthorpe 30m, R. Vlietstra 48m for Wollongong.
Referee: Jim Ross 5.
Crowd: 2138.

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Referee: Jim Ross 5.
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Referee: Jim Ross 5.
Crowd: 2138.

Yellow cards: R. Easthorpe 30m, R. Vlietstra

Rag-tag Preston shatters Olympic

BY GREG BLAKE

IT seemed almost criminal to send out what was left of the Preston Makedonia regiment to face the might of those rampaging "bully-boys" from Sydney Olympic at Connor Reserve on Sunday.

But after 90 minutes of the most tenacious and dogged football seen this season it was Olympic which left the ground looking like it had lost a dollar and found 10 cents.

Makedonia's walking wounded had risen to the occasion and courage had carried the club to its fifth straight home win of the season.

Makedonia, inspired by man-of-the-match Zoran Tacevski, beat Olympic 2-1 but how the Melbourne team triumphed is anyone's guess.

There must be something in the air at Connor Reserve, for how else can you explain a Makedonia victory achieved without the likes of Oscar Crino, Robbie Markovac, Warren Spink and Martin Woodall?

New signing Kire Temcev was too jet-lagged to make the squad of 13 and to add to the club's woes Robert Runje literally limped his way through the entire game and barnstorming midfielder George Sifkas was carried off with what appeared to be a serious knee injury with 15 minutes to play.

But battered and exhausted Makedonia, despite three of its number boasting just two full NSL appearances be-

tween them, slugged its way to a memorable win against an Olympic side which saved its best until far too late.

The visitors opened well and Preston's less than assertive early efforts probably lulled Olympic into a false sense of security.

In the 29th minute Tacevski's clever throughball fell to Steve Smith's feet and as he and Robbie Hooker charged together into the area the pair went down in a tangle of arms and legs.

As the dust settled referee Jim Reeves pointed to the spot and George Jolevski, another of Makedonia's solid performers, smacked home the spot-kick.

Five minutes from half-time Olympic fell for the fast-break sucker punch again, this time as Smith's first-time pass found Andrew Zinni down the right and the speedster slipped clear to angle his shot past Clint Gosling.

For all Olympic's possession it was getting little change from Bill Piculovski, Steve Jackson and Co., although the lanky Piculovski made just one error for the day and it was enough to allow Olympic in with a chance with just 12 minutes to play.

Piculovski hesitated with a clearance and Robert Ironside stole the ball away before stroking the ball square to where Marko Perinovic was on hand to reduce the deficit.

Preston's panic over the closing stages was obvious but it held fast

in what was surely a huge morale-boosting

win for the injury-ridden club.



Not a tribal war dance but rare goalmouth action during last Friday's 0-0 draw between St George and Melita

— HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

Preston Makedonia	Sydney Olympic
Traianedes	6
Runje	5
Jackson	6
Piculovski	6
Jolevski	6
Tacevski	8
Petrov	6
Sifkas	7
(Markovac 75m)	
Zinni	6
Smith	5
Momirovski	4
Bekiaris 86m)	
Gosling	5
Barrett	6
Hooker	6
Bernal	5
Georgakis	5
Ironside	4
Phillips	4
Lee	5
Perinovic	5
Saad	4
Ollerenshaw	4
(Hagan 60m)	

Scorers: Jolevski 29m (pen), Zinni 40m for Preston; Perinovic 78m for Olympic.

Yellow cards: Tacevski 33m, Bekiaris 90m for Preston; Georgakis 33m, Ironside 50m for Olympic.

Referee: J. Reeves 6.

Crowd: 3528.

Apia just keep rolling along

BY LOU GAUTIER

APIA Leichhardt cruised to a 5-1 win over Blacktown City at Lambert Park on Sunday to again emphatically trumpet to the QNSL they are very much for real.

The match brought little cheer to new Blacktown coach Walter Tamandl, who took over from Les Scheinfug a week earlier.

To make things worse for a strangely reshuffled Blacktown side who never played as though their QNSL lives depended on it, Apia were presented with a freakish gift goal after 24 minutes.

The usually solid Darren Northam misjudged a clearance under no apparent pressure to crash the ball past keeper Bill Londos for a demoralising own goal.



Alex Bundalo

Until then, Blacktown had held their own with Apia and they were still in the game until the 55th minute when Ron Manley bobbed into the box to slot home a Brian Ellem lob.

The goal destroyed Blacktown and Apia made absolutely sure of another two points — and equal first place on the ladder — in the 69th

minute.

A fierce 25-metre freekick by Alex Bundalo, again the most creative player on the field, surprised Londos for goal number 4.

The Blacktown players contested the goal but after consulting with his linesman, referee Gary Power allowed it.

The small band of Apia faithful were still on their feet cheering when an unmarked Peter Murray was on the spot to head a Bundalo cross into an unguarded Blacktown net.

Blacktown's second half substitute Geoff Gunning netted a consolation goal for his team the 84th minute with a spectacular 30-metre effort Tony Pezzano never saw coming.

But it was Apia who closed the scoring right on fulltime when Bundalo made no mistake converting a penalty kick after Murray had been tripped in the area.

Despite the absence of three first team starters — Rod Brown, Graham Jennings and Darren Stewart — Apia created nearly all the openings, showing some deft inter-passing.

Apia	Blacktown
Londos	5
Blagojevic	5
M. Brown	5
Okon	6
Halliday	6
Cinch	6
Ellem	5
Manley	6
Murray	6
Bundalo	7
van Blerk	6
(McQuarrie 59m)	
(Gunning 68m)	
Suman	5

Scorers: Northam (og) 24m, Manley 55m, Bundalo 69 & 90 (pen)m, Murray 70 for Apia; Gunning 84m for Blacktown.

Yellow cards: van Blerk 57m for Apia; Murphy 53m, Londos 90m, for Blacktown.

Referee: G. Power 7.

Crowd: 2536.



ZARKO ODZAKOV

Blacktown could not match Apia's sizzling pace and showed scant cohesion between any of their lines.

Apia coach Manfred Schaefer was more than happy with his team's display, especially in the second half.

"All is not perfect yet," he said, "but we are getting there. Marconi will be another big test for us this weekend. There's no reason we can't hold our own if we are at full strength."

Walter Tamandl realistically assessed the remainder of the season would be tough grind.

"We couldn't play any worse than today, that's for sure," he said.

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Melbourne Croatia bounce back to sparkling best

BY JOHN MANGAN

MELBOURNE Croatia's 5-1 whipping of Sunshine George Cross at Skinner Reserve on Sunday night showed that 90 minutes is indeed a long time in soccer.

At the beginning of the game Melbourne Croatia had been the team under pressure after a string of poor results. By the end of the game the Croatia fans were cheering their heroes off the field and it was left to the Sunshine George Cross supporters to wonder where their team was headed.

This was George Cross's second 5-1 defeat in a row after losing to Marconi by the same scoreline in Sydney last weekend. But this result hit coach Ernie Merrick much harder.

"It was the worst I've seen George Cross play ever," he said after the game. "I apologise to the fans for the performance. We had at least five players who didn't put themselves out."

Merrick blamed the lack of depth in the squad for his team's problems — a problem highlighted by the club's need to beg Jeff Faulkner to return from retirement to help in the midfield.

Ivan Raznjevic has injury problems but plenty of back-up in his Croatia squad. He was able to bring Joe Biskic and Francis Awaritefe back into the team after long layoffs and still afford the luxury of keeping Ivan Kelic and Zeljko Adzic — one of the country's top players — on the bench.

The first half was a dull affair with neither team's attack showing any cohesion.



Alan Davidson

Sunshine GC		Melbourne Croatia	
Keogh	5	Rados	6
Alevisos	4	Davidson	7
Roodhouse	5	Marth	5
Waddell	6	Donnelly	8
Parton	5	Hannah	6
Carter	7	Talajic	6
Foster	5	Duzel	6
Faulkner	6	Biskic	7
Hasler	6	Grbac	6
Clarkson	6	Caleta	6
Tapai	5	(Kelic 70m)	
(Zacharias 80m)		Awaritefe	6

Scorers: Duzel 46m, Awaritefe 71m, Biskic 72m, Kelic 78 (pen) & 88m for Melbourne Croatia; Faulkner 59m for Sunshine.

Yellow cards: Alevisos 37m, Carter 52m for Sunshine; Talajic 41m, Awaritefe 87m for Melbourne Croatia.

Referee: R. Lorenc 7.
Crowd: 4020.

The opening minute of the second half though gave a sign of things to come when Ivan Duzel fired Croatia into the lead with a shot which deflected into his own net.

Jeff Faulkner brought the home fans to their feet with a spectacular 30-metre shot 15 minutes later which put George Cross back on level terms.

But it was with 20 minutes to go that the George Cross defence folded. Francis Awaritefe found a gap, heading a Paul Donnelly cross past keeper Sean Keogh.

Then only a minute later, Biskic put his stamp on the game with a superb solo goal to give Croatia a comfortable 3-1 lead.

George Cross defender Shaun Parton gave away a penalty when he carelessly handled the ball in his own penalty box and substitute Ivan Kelic slammed the spot-kick into the back of the net.

Riding a wave of confidence Kelic swooped on a pass from Biskic and raced into the penalty area to notch up his second goal for the game and seal Croatia's 5-1 win.



Melita's Greg Brown gets his shot away from Saints' David Green — HECTOR CARRASCO pic.

New signings help Saints secure point

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ST GEORGE, bolstered by three new NSW State League signings, was able to hold a rapidly improving Melita Eagles to a scoreless draw in a drab match at St George Stadium last Friday night.

Alan Dean, Stephen Knight and Goran Pavlovic were all snapped up by the Saints and it looks certain that Knight, a current international indoor player, will be the best acquisition of the three.

Knight, who came on in the second half as a left fullback cum-midfielder, was easily the most constructive player on the field together with Melita's left midfielder Hugo Gimenez until he was replaced in the 62nd minute by striker Tony Parison.

Both Knight and Gimenez displayed excellent vision and were determined to switch play with lethal crosses

stretching both defences.

Melita dominated the first session but relinquished control to the Saints after half-time.

Fiery striker and former Socceroo Marshall Soper came ever so close to scoring twice for Melita in the 26th and 62nd minutes, but both of his close-range shots were chopped down by alert defenders David Green and Andy Koczkla.

Aytec Genc, Melita's elegant midfielder, rocked the St George crossbar just three minutes after the break with his 15-metre drive from the right.

The newly promoted Melita, who took the field without their two stars, sweeper Washington Gonzalez and defender Craig Williams, (both out with suspensions), showed that their confidence is rapidly growing with every match as they become adjusted to NSL football.

Their back four of Lenny Vial, Alfredo Barrios, Andy Callanan and Scott O'Donnell performed sterling work whilst Gimenez directed traffic with well measured crosses and through-balls from midfield.

Sergio Falce, Melita's new striker from Argentina, playing his first full match in the NSL, will prove a great acquisition once his team-mates become adjusted to his quick thinking and take-offs.

Saints' young goalkeeper, John Filan, deputising for injured Mike Gibson, was easily St George's best player as he pulled down three superb

saves from lethal Melita shots, one a 30-metre 'bomb' from substitute Ray Farrugia just six minutes from the end.

As well as Filan, Saints were well served by giant striker Tony Krstovic and right-full back David Green who did a top job tracking Soper.

Raul Blanco, Melita's coach, commented after the game: "We played well, especially our defence and I felt that this match was there to be taken by us but we allowed them the initiative in the



Marshall Soper (No 8) weaves his way past the St George defence — photo HECTOR CARRASCO.

St George	Melita Eagles
Filan	McPherson
Green	Vial
Dean	Barrios
O'Shea	Callanan
Pavlovic	O'Donnell
(Knight 7)	Genc
Harper	Mason
Koczkla	Gimenez
Dean	(Parison 61m)
Ilic	Soper
(McGregor 78m)	Brown
Bingley	Falce
Krstovic	(Farrugia 70m)

Referee: J. Santa-Isabel 8.
Crowd: 2442.

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pls
Marconi	11	8	4	1	23	9	16
Apia Leichhardt	11	8	4	1	17	7	16
South Melbourne	11	6	3	2	17	8	15
Sydney Olympic	11	6	2	3	19	8	14
Melbourne Croatia	11	5	3	3	19	11	13
Adelaide City	11	5	3	3	13	11	13
Preston Makedonia	11	5	2	4	11	12	12
Wollongong City	11	4	3	4	11	15	11
Melita Eagles	11	3	3	5	7	11	9
Sunshine GC	11	3	3	5	14	21	9
St George	11	2	4	5	14	22	8
Sydney Croatia	11	3	1	7	13	20	7
Blacktown City	11	2	2	7	14	23	6
Adelaide Hellas	11	2	1	8	11	25	5

Results

ST GEORGE 0 MELITA EAGLES 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 2442.
 SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Middle Park. Crowd: 2138.
 APIA LEICHARDT 5 (A. Bundalo 2, R. Manley, P. Murray, D. Northam o.g) BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (G. Gunning) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 2536.
 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1 (J. Faulkner) MELBOURNE CROATIA 5 (I. Kelic 2, I. Duzel, F. Awaritefe, J. Biskic) at Skinner Reserve. Crowd: 4020.
 PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (G. Jolevski, A. Zinni) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (M. Perinovic) at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 3528.
 SYDNEY CROATIA 0 ADELAIDE HELLAS 2 (M. Brazzale, B. Wright) at Croatian Sports Centre. Crowd: 3862.
 ADELAIDE CITY 1 (S. Maxwell) MARCONI 1 (I. Gray) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 6000 (est).

Crowds

ROUND 11: 24,526.
 AVERAGE PER GAME: 3,504.
 TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 239,294.
 AVERAGE PER ROUND: 21,754.

Top Scorers

Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	11
Rod Brown	(Apia)	8
Joe Caleta	(Melb Croatia)	6
Abbas Saad	(Sydney Olympic)	6
Ossie Latif	(Sunshine)	5
Paul Trimboli	(South Melbourne)	5

Team of the Week

D. Popovac (Wollongong)
 A. Davidson (Melb Croatia)
 M. Durakovic (South Melbourne)
 P. Donnelly (Melb Croatia)
 A. Tobin (Adelaide City)
 P. Wade (St Melbourne)
 Z. Tacevski (Preston)
 A. Santrac (Adelaide City)
 G. Slifkas (Preston)
 P. Tsolakis (South Melbourne)
 D. Lowe (Marconi)

Player of the Week



Alex Tobin (Ad City)

Queensland off to US indoor tour

BY GREG RUSSELL

A Queensland team leaves for the United States this weekend to play in the prestigious American Airlines Challenge Cup Indoor tournament.

The Bruce Stowell-

coached side will take on five of the leading teams of the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL) in a competition which could result in regular interaction between American and

Australian soccer.

The Patrick-sponsored Queensland team, which in the US will be known as the Sunshine Shooters, will be pitted against Dallas Sidekicks, Tacoma Stars, Wichita Wings, Kansas City Comets and St Louis Storm.

With the tour matches to be played in each of the team's home stadiums, which are perspex-walled courts, the Sunshine Shooters face a tough task to win the American Airlines Challenge Cup.

Stowell coached the Queensland team in the Super 6 Indoor tournament last year — which featured NSW, Victoria and English sides Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Manchester City — and knows how difficult it will be for this squad of outdoor players to adapt to playing off the walls.

With the Super 6 court now in storage, he has battled to find a stadium in Brisbane where he could simulate the conditions he expects in America.

As a back-up he has been drilling a 24-man squad since early in November which now has been reduced to 14.

The touring squad is: Russell Stewart, Nick Meredith, Rob Farrow (Lions); Frank Pimblett, Kieran Cooper, Glenn Archer (Brisbane City); Bill McDermott (Easts), Mark Bennett (Taringa), Stuart Woodruffe, Alan Niven, Michael Mulvey

(Mount Gravatt), Ken Swan, Jim McDonagh (North Star).

Mulvey was a late inclusion for Grodum, who was forced out by a shoulder injury.

Five of the squad — Stewart, Cooper, McDermott, Mulvey and Niven — played in the Queensland team in the Super 6. Stowell admits he will be relying on their experience to help the rest of the squad adapt for the opening tour match against Tacoma in the Tacoma Dome on January 22.

"This is a very important tour for Queensland soccer and ties between Australian and American football," Stowell said.

"It is vital that we play to the best of our ability and that means being as fit as possible."

The Sunshine Shooters face a hectic itinerary, and one which will take them from one end of the US to the other.

After playing Tacoma on Monday, January 22, the touring party then flies from the North to the South-West to play

Dallas.

The Americans are very excited to be hosting a team from Australia, and particularly a soccer team with interest in the game on the rise with the US.

From Dallas the Sunshine Shooters made a short hop to Kansas after which they fly to St Louis — via Chicago in the north.

The detour is required because tournament sponsors American Airlines, are excited about hosting the Australians and are keen to use the Queensland team to fly the American banner around the country.

After playing St Louis, American Airlines are hoping to get the Queenslanders back to Los Angeles in time for the company's inaugural flight to Australia.

American Airlines have been generous backers of the challenge Cup tournament and it is a positive sponsorship for soccer in the United States and Australia.

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Never mind the purists

"Gimmicks" wouldn't hurt

suggests GREG BLAKE

THE purists will never agree, but Australian soccer, which is now competing for the entertainment dollar rather than the sporting dollar, needs a few enticing gimmicks to bring it into line with most of the other major sporting codes in this country in the 1990s.

That's why it was pleasing to see the NSL's usually conservative chairman Sam Papasavas come out in public and support a proposal for a new league points' system devised by none other than current Melbourne Croatia star Alan Davidson.

Davidson, a former Socceroo kingpin, mapped out his plan for more entertaining soccer in his weekly column in Melbourne's SUNDAY SUN recently.

Davidson's suggestions are for three points rather than two for a win and that drawn games be decided by a penalty shoot-out.

Shoot-out

The winner of the shoot-out would get two points and the loser the normal one point for a drawn game.

According to Papasavas, the plan has merit and he said he will be recommending it to the NSL executive and hopefully to the council of clubs.

Papasavas said Davidson had made valid points in that when three points per win was introduced back in 1983 the scheme was not given time enough to establish itself.

"The concept of shoot-outs for league games would be new to Australia but I don't see why we shouldn't adapt when the championship is decided on a shoot-out," Papasavas said.

"I believe it would be exciting for the fans — I like the idea of finishing the game with a climax."

That the likes of Papasavas are finally prepared to look into innovative new ways of selling the game to the public is a victory in itself.

It is almost an admission that the NSL has been living in the dark ages for too long as other sporting codes have forged ahead in marketing their product as an entertainment.



Australian soccer needs more than baton-twirling cuties as a gimmick to start drawing bigger crowds.

Summer soccer and finals football, both of which still rankle the stuffy purists of the game, have had at least limited success.

Any new ideas must be given its fair chance.

Personally, I've always considered baseball in the same league as synchronised swimming when it comes to excitement and about as engaging as watching paint dry.

Nail

And yet the emergence of a national baseball league this summer could mean another nail in the coffin of less public relations-minded sports.

NSL soccer is certainly that.

In the past decade we've already been overtaken by the basketball phenomenon.

It has eclipsed our game in terms of corporate interest, television exposure and fan support in that time.

And soccer had commenced its 1977 NSL season with a huge head start on the basketball crew.

Baseball might be the next cab off the rank to pass us down the freeway.

And why? Promotion, gimmicks and fresh ideas are the short answer.

Melbourne journalist James Weston de-

scribed some of the action at a recent Waverley Reds game at VFL Park in Melbourne in a recent edition of a Sunday newspaper.

"There's the high-kicking Red Diamonds — a troupe of young dancers that keeps the crowd buzzing with their gyrations," says Weston.

"Batboys are out, and batgirls Nicole and Janine were a big hit at a recent Reds match.

"And there's the traditional Seventh Inning Stretch when the crowd stands up to sing 'Take Me Out To The Ball Game.'

"But it's the big greed factor of prizes to be won that has caught the imagination of the kids.

"There's money to be won for the child that races Redmond the Bear around the bases — and strangely the Reds' mascot has still not won a race.

"There's \$20 for the dirtiest car in the car-park, a pizza-eating contest between innings, free pizza for the section of the crowd that cheers the loudest and you can cash in on the foul balls that go flying into the crowd regularly behind the bat."

As facile and even ridiculous as those ideas might sound it is working at the turnstiles.

Already Waverley's Reds are pulling in up-

wards of 5,000 per game in this the first national baseball season.

I'll go too — just to have a look.

Just as I attended my first National Basketball League game this season past.

I wouldn't have the foggiest about jump-shots, dribbling or free-throws but I was entertained and I went back for more.

Sidelight

Nobody wants to see the day when the sport itself becomes a meagre sidelight to the entertainment.

But the days of newcomers walking in off the street to see an NSL game, if there ever were such days, are no more.

We aren't yet giving the paying punters what they want.

Not the established ones but the new generation, if there is to be one.

Another interesting newspaper piece came to light in Melbourne's AGE.

The NSL administration should have a good look at the contents.

The National Basketball League dropped a club from its 1990 roster.

League members voted not to admit the expansion Townsville Suns.

The Suns could not meet terms set by the NBL in that they couldn't show that they had the finance to build a \$7 million, 5,000 seat stadium and that the stadium would be ready by July 2.

Can you believe that?

DUNDEE's Billy Pirie, Sydney Olympic's favourite son, announced he was returning for a second guest stint for that club in a week which culminated in one of the games of the year.

At Melbourne's Middle Park they were literally hanging from the rafters as 17,228 fans packed the ground to watch the visit of undefeated top team Marconi play local heroes South Melbourne Hellas.

And Rale Basic's Marconi team didn't let anyone down in the pulsating atmosphere of Middle Park that day as the Sydney team, inspired by Roberto Vieri and Jimmy Rooney, tore Hellas apart to win 3-0 and stay top of the lad-

der after eight rounds of the PSL.

Vieri, from the penalty spot, Fairfield Flyer Peter Sharne and big Mark Jankovics scored the goals in the rout which left the press proclaiming "Mighty Marconi for

Trendy Puskas hits at critics

BY LOU GAUTIER



FERENC PUSKAS: who's laughing now?

Puskas' critics emanate, would open their eyes and show them how it's done as we enter the nineties.

Several uninform

journalists and fellow coaches, who should have known better, claimed Puskas' training and coaching methods were "outdated" when, in fact,

he had been attempting to have his team play like most European sides do these days.

The "outdated" ones are those critics who remain oblivious to world trends, and that includes some of the coaches who were quick to lampoon Puskas's concept and who were predicting he would not last the summer at the helm of Hellas.

A refresher course in Europe and South America, not England from where most of

the

team

are

from

the

side.

"I am bringing the team along slowly and we will not hit top form until the second half of the competition," Puskas predicts.

Injuries, however, are a big worry.

"No club I have ever

been associated with in my more than 40 years as a player and coach has been harder hit by injuries than Hellas."

FOOTNOTE — Puskas was honoured in a recent poll in the mass-circulation and authoritative FRANCE FOOTBALL.

FRANCE FOOTBALL's world-wide poll to find the best players of the century as we head into the last decade of the 20th century ranked him fifth.

The winner, and Player of the Century, with one decade left, was Pele, followed by Alfredo di Stefano, Diego Maradona and Michel Platini.

ASW's Melbourne editor GREG BLAKE continues his feature on days gone by in the National Soccer League, with the NSL now in its 14th season ...

ALOOK BACK

The NSL 13 years on



ROBERTO VIERI

der after eight rounds of the PSL.

Vieri, from the penalty spot, Fairfield Flyer Peter Sharne and big Mark Jankovics scored the goals in the rout which left the press proclaiming "Mighty Marconi for

the title."

Olympic, although buoyed by the news of the impending return of Pirie, suffered the upset of the round when it went down 4-2 at home against Brisbane Lions.

Western Suburbs moved to second on the table by winning a thriller against Eastern Suburbs Hakoah 3-2 on a day which saw the debut of 17-year-old Greg Woodhouse for Wests.

On the coaching roundabout, John Margaritis, despite a

1-0 win at Brisbane City, had told his West Adelaide club he wanted to be released from his contract.

And Fitzroy's Tony Boggi advised the club he will be resigning following just one win in eight rounds of matches.

Two former Greek internationals, Bill Stravopodis and Con Davourlis, flew into Sydney during the week to join Sydney Olympic and play as soon as their international clearances arrive.

SOCER POOLS



LAST WEEK'S RESULTS WEEK 233 SAT 13 JANUARY, 1990

POOLS RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

Total Prize Pool \$2,222,463.36.

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 3, 14, 21, 24, 27, 35. Supplementary Number: 12

Division 1

The Prize Pool is \$2,075,867.31.
No winner - Jackpot week 234 (Est. \$2.4m next week).

Division 2

The Prize Pool is \$8,378.40
4 provisional winners of \$2,094.60 ea

Division 3
The Prize Pool is \$25,133.60
89 winners of \$282.40 ea.

Division 4

The Prize Pool is \$62,871.90
4,606 winners of \$13.65 ea.

Division 5

The Prize Pool is \$50,212.15
6,161 winners of \$8.15 ea.

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1			
CHARLTON	ASTON VILLA	1	0-2
COVENTRY	CRYSTAL P.	2	1-0
LIVERPOOL	LUTON	3	2-2
MAN. UTD.	DERBY	4	1-2
NOTTINGHAM F.	MILLWALL	5	3-1
O.P.R.	NORWICH	6	2-1
WIMBLEDON	ARSENAL	7	1-0
BLACKBURN	LEEDS	8	1-2
BRADFORD C.	WOLVES	9	1-1
BRIGHTON	BARNESLEY	10	1-1
HULL	BOURNEMOUTH	11	1-4
IPSWICH	SHEFF. UTD.	12	1-1
NEWCASTLE	LEICESTER	13	5-4
PLYMOUTH	WEST HAM	14	1-1
STOKE	PORTSMOUTH	15	1-2
SWINDON	OLDHAM	16	3-2
WATFORD	OXFORD UTD.	17	0-1
WEST BROM.	PORT VALE	18	2-3
BIRMINGHAM	BRISTOL C.	19	0-4
BLACKPOOL	NOTTS C.	20	0-0
BRISTOL R.	MANSFIELD	21	1-1
BURY	PRESTON	22	1-2
CARDIFF	TRANMERE	23	0-0
FULHAM	BOLTON	24	2-2
HUDDERSFIELD	WALSALL	25	1-0
LEYTON O.	SHREWSBURY	26	1-0
READING	CREWE	27	1-1
ROTHERHAM	WIGAN A.	28	1-2
CHESTERFIELD	CARLISLE	29	3-0
EXETER	HARTLEPOOL	30	3-1
GILLINGHAM	DONCASTER	31	3-1
GRIMSBY	TORQUAY	32	0-0
HEREFORD	CAMBRIDGE U.	33	0-2
LINCOLN	ALDERSHOT	34	0-1
PETERBORO	YORK	35	1-1
ROCHDALE	SCUNTHORPE	36	3-0
SCARBORO	MAIDSTONE	37	0-1
STOCKPORT	BURNLEY	38	3-1

* Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520;
Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521;
Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm
Mondays.

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 234 SAT 20 JANUARY

ENGLISH DIVISION 1			
ASTON VILLA	SOUTHAMPTON	1	
CHELSEA	CHARLTON	2	
DERBY	NOTTINGHAM F.	3	
EVERTON	SHEFF. WED.	4	
LUTON	O.P.R.	5	
MAN. CITY	COVENTRY	6	
MILLWALL	WIMBLEDON	7	
BARNESLEY	PLYMOUTH	8	
BOURNEMOUTH	IPSWICH	9	
LEEDS	STOKE	10	
LEICESTER	WATFORD	11	
OLDHAM	NEWCASTLE	12	
OXFORD UTD.	BLACKBURN	13	
PORTSMOUTH	BRADFORD C.	14	
PORT VALE	BRIGHTON	15	
SHEFF. UTD.	MIDDLESBROUGH	16	
SUNDERLAND	WEST BROM.	17	
WEST HAM	HULL	18	
WOLVES	SWINDON	19	
BOLTON	CARDIFF	20	
BRENTFORD	BRISTOL R.	21	
BRISTOL C.	BURY	22	
CREWE	BIRMINGHAM	23	
MANSFIELD	CHESTER	24	
NOTTS C.	LEYTON O.	25	
PRESTON	ROTHERHAM	26	
SHREWSBURY	READING	27	
ALDERSHOT	GILLINGHAM	28	
BURNLEY	ROCHDALE	29	
CAMBRIDGE U.	GRIMSBY	30	
CARLISLE	HEREFORD	31	
COLCHESTER	CHESTERFIELD	32	
DONCASTER	EXETER	33	
HARTLEPOOL	HALIFAX	34	
MAIDSTONE	PETERBORO	35	
TORQUAY	STOCKPORT	36	
WREXHAM	SCARBORO	37	
YORK	SOUTHEND	38	

ENGLISH DIVISION 2			
CHARLTON	ASTON VILLA	1	0-2
COVENTRY	CRYSTAL P.	2	1-0
LIVERPOOL	LUTON	3	2-2
MAN. UTD.	DERBY	4	1-2
NOTTINGHAM F.	MILLWALL	5	3-1
O.P.R.	NORWICH	6	2-1
WIMBLEDON	ARSENAL	7	1-0
BLACKBURN	LEEDS	8	1-2
BRADFORD C.	WOLVES	9	1-1
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LEYTON O.	SHREWSBURY	26	1-0
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PETERBORO	YORK	35	1-1
ROCHDALE	SCUNTHORPE	36	3-0
SCARBORO	MAIDSTONE	37	0-1
STOCKPORT	BURNLEY	38	3-1

G.M. VAUXHALL CONFERENCE			
BARROW	WYCOMBE	39	
BOSTON U.	ALTRINCHAM	40	
DARLINGTON	FISHER ATH.	41	
ENFIELD	FARNBORO	42	
KETTERING	TELFORD	43	
NORTHWICH	WELLING UTD.	44	
STAFFORD	SUTTON UTD.	45	
YEOVIL	RUNCORN	46	
KINGSTONIAN	HARROW	47	
LEYTON WTE	CARSHALTAN	48	
MARLOW	BISHOPS S.	49	
REDBRIDGE	WOKINGHAM	50	
ST. ALBANS	STAINES	51	
WINDSOR	HENDON	52	
ATHERSTONE	DOVER	53	
BATH	GOSPORT	54	
BROMSGROVE	CORBY	55	

* BEAZER HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 13/1/1990 — WEEK 232

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	25	28	37	14	27	43	32	41		1	2	1	0	7	31	6	7	16	2
2	42	51	44	46	44	46	49	42		21	2	17	0	4	14	15	16	17	6
3	42	43	33	49	44	47	47	46		12	18	25	5	20	22				



JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY

With the end of the eighties, all over the world soccer publications and identities have been busily compiling their "Team of the Decade."

The British have come up with several such "teams", but I thought readers of ASW would be most interested in Jimmy Greaves' selections as the former great player who is now a leading TV commentator always seems to make sense. Please note that he has included Irishman Liam Brady in his 'British' team.

PETER SHILTON

Started the decade as a 30-year-old and people said he was past his best. Ten years on he's still going strong.

An outstanding international. He may not be the world's best any more — that's Neville Southall — but over the past 10 years he's been in a class of his own.

RICHARD GOUGH

I've never understood why Rangers play this guy at centre-half when he is such a great right-back.

Spurs made the same mistake and never got the best out of him.

But Scotland know best. Strong in the tackle, good in the air and great power and stamina to keep making those surging runs from the back.

KENNY SANSON

I criticised Kenny during his final season as an England player but there is no doubt that he's been the best left-back of the 80s. He's certainly not been an easy player to replace, as Stuart Pearce is currently finding out.

ALAN HANSEN

It's incredible that he's won only 26 Scotland caps, even allowing for injuries.

No disrespect to Willie Miller and Alex McLeish, but they're not in the same class.

His only rival for the centre-half's place in my dream team was Terry Butcher, but it had to be Hansen for his skill, control and sheer quality.

MARK LAWRENSON

The perfect partner for Hansen. They made things so easy for each other during those glory years at Liverpool and were the closest thing British football has had to the classy defenders they've enjoyed in Italy and Holland.

It was a tragedy his career was brought to a premature halt before

"British" Team of the Decade



IAN RUSH: goalscoring legend.

he'd played in the World Cup finals.

GLENN HODDIE

Never really made his mark on the international scene, but he's got great vision, brilliant passing ability and a fantastic eye for the spectacular goal.

Should have gone abroad earlier in his career, but Spurs fans will never agree.

BRYAN ROBSON

The outstanding British player of the decade. Proved yet again against the Yugoslavs last month that we can't get by without him. God help England if he's injured in Italy.

He's the only England player I'd have in a current World XI.

GRAEME SOUNESS

Everyone knew him as a hard man, but they

often overlooked his tremendous all-round ability.

Tough, strong and a great passer of the ball, he was at the heart of all the great moves in the middle 80s with Liverpool.

With him and Robbo in the middle of the park, opponents wouldn't have come near them.

LIAM BRADY

The perfect choice for the left side of the midfield.

Just about our only successful import to Italy, and that says it all.

Could pass a ball even better than Hoddie, and that says even more.

IAN RUSH

Scored in virtually every game he played in until he cocked it all up

by moving to Italy.

He's never really recovered from that experience, but he's still as good as anyone else in Britain.

A goalscoring legend.

GARY LINEKER

England's first choice striker for the past five years, he's been the top scorer in the World Cup, won the Golden Shoe award as the First Division's top scorer and now he's finally recovered from his hepatitis he could just do the business again in the World Cup finals.

ADVERTISING
SYDNEY
Ring John Economos
(02) 660 2033

DOUBLE HEADER

THE QNSL is to be commended for wanting to stage a double-header on January 28 at Parramatta Stadium.

The Australia Day double bill would involve Sydney Croatia v South Melbourne Hellas and Sydney Olympic v Marconi.

This explosive pairing could draw 15,000 or more spectators to a venue soccer fans have shown they will patronise in large numbers.

Should the two Australia Day matches be played concurrently at the Sydney Croatian Centre and at St George Stadium, the combined attendance would certainly not exceed 12,000 at best as Sydney's Greek community would be following Olympic, not Hellas.

A double-header at Parramatta would be a bold media attention-grabbing promotional move.

The QNSL has been criticised for not promoting its summer season.

Well, now it has just done so with its innovative proposed double-header spectacular.

Yet the very clubs who have decried the league's lack of ideas are now crying foul.

Sydney Croatia claim they will lose \$25,000 by going to Parramatta.

Olympic's views were not known as we went to press.

Watch this space for further developments.

— LOU GAUTIER

LETTER

St George

WHILE I can understand that St George, the club I have followed since their days in the pre-Federation Second Division in the early 1950s when they were called Ferencvaros, are financially strapped, I firmly believe they must stop selling their best players.

Scott Ollerenshaw's transfer was the last straw.

This is no way to encourage the few supporters they have left.

With glasnost all the rage in Eastern Europe and the Russian empire crumbling, St George should have no problem getting a few players for Hungary.

This would also perhaps bring back their old Hungarian fans, who just can't be bothered with their current players.

FRANK KULCSAR,
Paddington, NSW

PERSONALITY PLAYER



KIMON TALIADOROS (South Melbourne)

NAME: Kimon Taliadoros

CLUB: South Melbourne

BIRTHPLACE & DATE: Durban, South Africa
on 28/3/68

HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 180cm, 78kg

MARRIED: NO

HOME: Malvern, Victoria

NICKNAME: Kim

CAR: Mini Moke

OCCUPATION: Accounting student

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Box Hill juniors

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Maradona, Rush, Sanchez

FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: Paul Trimboli

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All difficult

FAVOURITE GROUND: Middle Park

MOST MEMORABLE GAME: South Melbourne's 5-4 home win against Apia in 1988.

BIGGEST THRILL: It's always a thrill scoring goals.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing.

FAVOURITE POSITION: Anywhere up front.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Cricket, golf and tennis.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Mum's cooking.

FAVOURITE DRINK: Beer.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Nobody in particular. I like all contemporary music.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Family Ties.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Any comedies.

BEST FRIEND: Girlfriend Lisa.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father Zenon and Brian Garvey.

WORST INJURY: I've been lucky and had no bad ones — touch wood.

AMBITIONS: To succeed in business and soccer and to play at the highest level I can.

BOOT TYPE: Puma.

MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Paul Trimboli.

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Pele.

Compiled by Greg Blake

Fair Play Award has gone missing

WHATEVER has happened to the Prima Smallgoods Fair Play Award? Last season the NSL took considerable pride in having a table which emphasised the fairest clubs, based on FIFA's similar idea.

This year nothing has been heard of the system.

Has it been sunk, or will it be revived about half way along the summer season track? Maybe an announcement is pending?

Soccer's ethnic base has to be expanded for progress

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE ethnic communities that are supplying so much support for NSL soccer are well known, but the game has to expand beyond its present limitations.

Much depends upon building a far bigger base than is presently available.

Apart from the degree of enthusiasm in various national groups that soccer taps at present, there are other factors that will bear more and more on the future of the game.

Those interested in soccer are aware of the NSL change to a summer season, but outside of that there is often scant concern.

In a limited check of sports followers in Sydney there was a realisation from the press and television that summer soccer was going, but enthusiasm was limited.

This, of course, points to a lack of strong publicity, and an inability to reach the general public under present systems.

It is vital that consideration be given as to how to influence the 67% of the population that has Anglo-Saxon-Celtic roots.

Without a slice of that action, the picture is grim indeed.

Fortunately, there is not so much of the old English-Irish conflict left in Australian society.

Unfortunately, there is a sprinkling of Balkan politics around, and the Australian media will never buy soccer as long as it rears its ugly head from time to time.

The recent South Melbourne-Melbourne Croatia flare up is a case in point, even if it was more of a flash in the pan.

Many soccer fans are scornful when there is trouble with English crowds, but expect to be allowed to forget it when it occurs in Australia!

It wasn't the worst ever demonstration by a long chalk, but the NSL must ask how the home club allowed a substantial section of the crowd to stand along the athletics track.

There is another important area for consideration.

Changes are taking place in the population makeup of major cities that the Australian Soccer Federation and the National Soccer League need to understand and utilise to



Flagwaving ethnic clubs — are they still relevant in the nineties?

advantage, just as the junior associations do at grass roots level.

Years ago much of the immigrant population of central and inner Sydney moved out, and the west and south west have grown enormously.

Close-in Melbourne has undergone an even more dramatic population loss, with a decrease in population experienced in no less than 23 local government areas.

Adelaide has shed substantial near-city population, whilst Newcastle is reported to have lost out regularly over each of the past 12 years although surrounding areas have grown.

Brisbane must look to feeding for its soccer crowds to its southern side in particular, with the Gold Coast and Albert Shire being Australia's biggest growth areas, ahead even of Sydney's west and south, and leading its own popular Sunshine Coast.

Trends in Sydney point to the big growth centres of Fairfield, Blacktown, Baulkham Hills and Penrith.

But, looking over the next two decades, the western area between Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith and out to Liverpool and up the Blue Mountains is planned to explode to the extent that it will be home to 1.5 million people.

At that stage far and away the biggest population centre will be the City of Blacktown.

It should explode to

bush site

In planning major soccer club arrangements for Sydney, due regard has to be given to inner areas where some population decreases may turn around as regrowth takes place.

Regard must be had for the expertise of some present clubs, and whether they can be relocated.

Rugby league has made successful moves in this regard, although Australian rules has not come up with any such winners.

The former may face the demise of the wealthy Eastern Suburbs club in the future, due to lack of support.

Soccer will have to examine its near city position in Sydney, and build on its western and southern western centres.

It may well be that the huge increases in the Parklea/Kellyville/Rouse Hill growth areas of the Blacktown and Baulkham Hills Council areas could see Valentine Park becoming a major soccer spectator centre along with the Gabba Stadium.

Certainly these are factors that will confront soccer in the near to medium future.

Fences won't stop hotheads — "Davo"

ALAN Davidson

does not believe higher fences at soccer grounds is the answer to crowd disturbances such as the one that marred the recent South Melbourne v Melbourne Croatia summit match at Olympic Park.

Writing in his weekly column in the mass-circulation SUNDAY SUN, the Socceroo great claims fences would "give the feeling of animals being caged."

Davidson urges every QNSL club to ensure that security is more adequate.

"The South Melbourne v Croatia match was billed as the game



ALAN DAVIDSON



IVAN KELIC

of the year and was guaranteed a big crowd", he writes.

"Whoever was responsible should have ensured there were enough police to cope with any possible trouble.

"There was no way 10 policemen could handle the mass of supporters who spilled onto the pitch after the match."

'Davo' claims the incident started when a South Melbourne fan ran onto the pitch and struck Croatia striker Joe Caleta on the back of the head.

Team-mate Ivan Kelic moved in to push the spectator away but he was grabbed from

behind by another supporter who tried to punch him.

"When the Croatia supporters saw all this they came to their players' support," Davidson continues.

"I was shoved from the back as I was swamped by Hellas fans, but a Croatia supporter ran straight towards me and offered to escort me off the field.

"As we walked through the crowd, it was good to see a few South fans still respected me and offered me words of sympathy after our defeat, but there was abuse from a minority," he added.

Alan Davidson is also very disappointed that the people who cause crowd troubles are die-hard supporters of the code.

"They have soccer in the blood but they don't realise how much damage they are doing to the sport."

To which we can all say amen.

QNSL's "Magnificent 6"

THE QUIT National Soccer League, as part of its campaign to lift the stature of the competition and to create its own soccer "identities", has embarked on a publicity programme involving six of the League's up and coming young players.

The players, dubbed as the stars of the 90s are:

- ★ Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)
- ★ John Markovski (Melbourne Croatia)
- ★ Aurelio Vidmar (Adelaide City)
- ★ Matthew Bingley (St George)
- ★ Steve Georgakis (Sydney Olympic)
- ★ Paul Okon (Marconi)

The selection of players was aimed at two levels.

Firstly, those players currently at Socceroo level or approaching Socceroo status.

The second level was aimed at potential Socceroos for the Olympic Games — bearing in mind QUIT's and the League's support for the 1996 Melbourne bid.

These six players attended photographic sessions in Melbourne last week for soccer action and lifestyle shots.

These will form part of player profiles and background stories for placement by the League's marketing consultant CSS International in the various mainstream media, including the consumer press.

QUIT National Soccer League General Manager, Peter Russell, said: "It is important that we create our own identities.

"The soccer public are aware of these quality young Australian players but we have never really exposed this fact outside the code.

"We have to get this message across to the general public and see this as the first step in an ongoing process.

"There is still the perception that soccer at this level is played predominantly by imported



PAUL TRIMBOLI

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT — Jimmy Hagan created a record for a touring player in Australia when he scored eight goals for the English FA team against Tasmania in Launceston, in 1951?

★★★

THAT — Weston club in Newcastle created a record by supplying two state captains on the one day in 1923?

Jack Avis led NSW against the touring Hong Kong team in Newcastle and Albert Creighton captained NSW against Queensland in Brisbane.

That is totally wrong.
"We have our own stars capable of playing quality soccer and presently have over 20 Australians playing overseas.
"That certainly is proof of our potential", added Mr Russell.

Zeljko Adzic soon a fair dinkum Aussie

BY PHIL MARTIN

MELBOURNE
Croatia's talented Zeljko Adzic has set his sights on playing for Australia in the 1994 World Cup.

The Croatian-born midfielder likes Australia so much that he intends to settle here permanently.

By the time the 1994 qualifiers come around he hopes to have become a naturalised Australian.

He was an instant hit and played a major role in transforming Melbourne Croatia from also-rans into one of the most exciting teams in the league.

Though Zlatko Nastevski took out the 1989 Players' Player of the Year award, had the vote been decided by the fans Adzic would probably have won it such was his impact on spectators around the league.

His summer season, however, has been plagued by injury and by Round 11 he had only appeared five times in a side which sorely missed his playmaking.

Adzic, who had a five-year spell with Dinamo Zagreb before moving to Canada, via the US indoor league, is thrilled to bits over his selection in the Australian squad to play Torpedo Moscow.

Frank Arok wisely chose him, together with Nastevski, because of the nature of the matches against the Russians.

As the games are merely "friendlies", nothing more than exhibition matches really, they are open to all players, not only Australian citizens.

Though some believe Arok should have used the Torpedo



ZELJKO ADZIC — hopes his association with the Socceroos will lead to the 1994 World Cup qualifiers.

games to blood young players, there was really no reason to deprive the public of the chance of watching a player of Adzic's calibre in action against the tourists.

Adzic is very impressed with Arok's training methods.

Arok, who has been putting the Melbourne and Adelaide players

of his train-on squad through their paces in Melbourne, is equally impressed with Adzic.

"He is a very skilful player - a big asset to any team," he enthused.

As for the player, he is hoping that his debut against the Muscovites will be the beginning of a long Socceroo career.

FRANK AROK

The 24 year old joined the Melbourne club in April last year from Canadian National League side Hamilton Steelers with nine rounds of the NSL competition already played.

Raul's mission work in the Philippines

BY FRANK SCIOLINA

AS if newly promoted Melita Eagles coach Raul Blanco does not have a big enough battle on his hands to ensure his club's survival in the Quit National League, he has now also taken up the much tougher task of trying to get a better deal for soccer in the poverty-stricken province of Cebu in the far off Philippines.

Blanco was so moved by the appalling lack of football facilities on a recent visit to the province that he personally wrote to president Corazon Aquino last week imploring her to do everything she could to provide urgently needed assistance.

Former Apia player Graeme McKinnon invited me to visit the province last October to conduct a seven-day course for their coaches". Blanco explained

Graeme has been living in Cebu for a number of years where he runs a successful business and is involved in coaching the local side as well as their representative team".

The response to his brief stay was staggering with over 30 local coaches attending every session.



Raul Blanco

Blanco was frequently interviewed on radio and television while football fans followed his every move.

"After basketball, soccer is by far the most popular sport with the people of Cebu but there isn't a decent ground to even train on, let alone play matches", he said.

"There's no problem for me to go back at the end of the season, but to take the team on tour would be almost impossible", he claims.

"There's just no ground available to accommodate the crowds needed to make such a venture viable. It really is a great pity because the hospitality shown by the people of Cebu is overwhelming", a visibly frustrated Blanco emphasised.

"They deserve a lot better than what they have. That's why I felt so strongly that something had to be done. Writing to president Aquino urging her to do it, she can assist them was the least I could do."

Whether Raul Blanco's efforts in trying to help his new-found football friends in the Philippines have any significant impact on their president remains to be seen but, at least, he can never be accused of ignoring their plight.

Quit
NATIONAL
SOCER
LEAGUE



NOT THANKS, IT WILL PASS!

One of the hardest things about giving up smoking is learning to say no. Which, if you stop to think about it, isn't that hard at all. Especially when you think about what you gain.

Because from the moment you stop, your body starts getting back on the ball. Almost immediately your heart beat slows down and your blood pressure starts to drop. After just a day you'll have more energy.

Give it a couple of days and you'll feel and smell fresher, and your taste buds and sense of smell will come alive.

And even more importantly, with enough time, you'll reduce your risk of emphysema, lung cancer and heart disease.

You'll be fit for life. And after all, isn't that the name of the game?

Call the Quit line - 11538.

Quit

Official sponsor of the National Soccer League

QNSL must be open to all

WA squad for Torpedo

WOLLONGONG
Macedonia or Sydney's Avala are being favoured to win this year's NSW State League, to claim entry to the Quit National Soccer League.

The reason for this is money.

Wollongong Macedonia in 1988 were woefully short of money and their results reflected this.

By introducing numerous, innovative money-raising methods during 1989, Macedonia became the big spenders in NSW State League and they rose from second bottom in State League in 1988 to third top in 1989.

As for Avala it now has a good spectator base and an effective social club, plus its own ground — the basis for soccer success in Australia.

It has just re-employed Michael Urukolo as its coach.

Avala's long-serving secretary-manager, Jack Cirjanic's ambition is to be part of the team that takes Avala, Sydney's equivalent of Melbourne's JUST, into the National League.

On the other hand, Wollongong Macedonia's president, Alec Kencevski, and marketing manager, George Stojonovski, both only 32 are totally committed to taking their club into National League.

Macedonia begins working on a ground and social club complex this year.

But recent proposals that our current National League clubs be granted freedom from relegation, in an exclusive National League, would kill off the ambitions of soccer men such as Cirjanic, Kencevski and Stojonovski and numerous others like them throughout Australia.

Soccer is not limited in its numbers of clubs or players as is Aussie rules or rugby league.

Unlike those codes which are often cited as examples to follow by the freedom from relegation people, soccer has innumerable clubs spread throughout every State in Australia.

The proposition that businessmen buy out clubs, or that clubs become franchised, or privatised, then given freedom from relegation was tried in America and failed.

People here talk about promoting the game — it was promoted massively in the US, yet did not succeed.

The mass of the people in America prefer their traditional sports, just as here in Australia. But there as here, there are enough soccer fanatics, mainly ethnic people, to support and sustain a viable soccer competition.

Mankind thrives on

opportunity and challenge.

It is this that has kept our soccer going throughout recent decades of central Federation maladministration.

Yes, there needs to be big clubs developed in our cities. Yes, there needs to be mergers and amalgamations.

But the opportunity to build up a great club and take it all the way into our National League should never be denied those people with the ambition, ability and drive to do so.

Foul language

I write this article 9am on a Saturday morning out in the beltown, in Sydney's western suburbs.

We are here for an under 16-year-old representative cricket match between Sutherland and Campbelltown in which my son Daman is taking part.

Tonight we will go on to a National League soccer game.

Crikey and soccer in the same day — that is a good day for us.

Sport, played right, has much to offer — fresh air, exercise, honest commitment.

It offers a chance to express legal aggression; to test and display courage, skill fitness and intelligence.

And it DOES offer the opportunity to develop character.

Thus, when I



popped in to Marconi Stadium the other night to look at the training I was appalled by the foul language of their under 19 team.

How does that come about?

Obviously, there could be many reasons, for such deplorable behaviour, not the least being the general deterioration of social standards today.

However, to encounter such a bad example at Marconi from where so much good has come in recent times was a surprise and a disappointment.

The NSW Soccer Federation, to their credit, apart from taking a firm stand against on-field violence, has also cracked down on swearing on the field.

It is very noticeable watching summer Quit National Soccer League games, the heightened level of on-field verbal and physical violence allowed by referees in National League as compared to NSW State League.

ALLAN Pottier and Ronnie Campbell were made more than welcome on their return to the West, following the announcement by reappointed State coach Alan Vest that they have been included in the WA squad that plays Soviet visitors Moscow Torpedo on January 28.

However, it could well turn into just a fleeting gesture should their transfers experience complications.

Campbell's release from Heidelberg appears to be the more difficult because of a \$14,000 price tag placed on him.

The WA team received a severe setback to their preparations for the clash when skipper Robbie Dunn announced he is flying out at the end of this week to Hong Kong to play for South China FC.

Coach Alan Vest immediately introduced former Irish international Noel Larkin as his replacement, with Mel Brown (Perth Italia) and Jeff Curran (Floreat Athena) contesting the captaincy.

There are eight new faces in the squad compared to the side that

REINHOLD KÄRGER



WILLY McNALLY

turned out for last year's game against English team Millwall.

Italia keeper Chris Barbas, Frank Bate (Stirling Macedonia), Michael Roki (Athena) and 17-year-old Stan Lazarides (Macedonia) are the noticeable inclusions.

VIDEO

Because of the obvious lack of information about their opponents, National Director of coaching Eddie Thomson will be greatly contributing to the team's preparations.

AUSTRALIA vs MOSCOW TORPEDO



FRIDAY, 19th JANUARY 1990

A NSW Soccer Federation Presentation

KICK-OFF 7.30PM



Sydney Football Stadium

MOSCOW TORPEDO

3 TIMES CHAMPIONS OF THE USSR

6 TIMES USSR CUP WINNERS

PERIODICALLY UPATED INFORMATION FROM THE MOSCOW TORPEDO OFFICE

Chit Chat... Chit Chat... Chit Chat...



A referee's job is never done — here Gary Power gets Blacktown City officials to repair the net before the start of the NSL match against Adelaide City.

PETER TSOLAKIS. South Melbourne's diminutive jack of all trades, is yet another Aussie who is Greece-bound.

He will trial for three weeks in June with First Division Etnikos.

He was spotted by club official Basil Barbayannis who had flown to Melbourne to specifically scout teammate Kimon Taliadoros.

★★★

MELBOURNE CROATIA may loan Anthony Grbac to State League outfit Thomastown this season to help the player regain fitness after 18 months of knee injuries. St Albans and Bulleen have also asked about the midfielder.

★★★

IVAN RAZNJEVIC is in "no danger" of being sacked, according to Melbourne Croatia officials.



They squashed rumours his demise was imminent after the team lost three straight games.

President Joe Duzel, rightly, claims the club's horror run of injuries, was responsible for its recent slump.

★★★

No comment department ... there was some confusion at Adelaide Airport when the Sydney Croatia party left on its return journey to Sydney after losing to Adelaide City.

The group was ready to board when it was noticed a jet from the JAT airline would be the carrier.

"For personal reasons, once they saw they were to board a JAT flight they asked the traffic office if alternative arrangements could be made," said an Ansett spokesman.

"An RAAF Hero was leaving shortly afterwards and their baggage was reloaded from the JAT flight to that one.

"There was no confrontation. The tour leader was most apologetic but said his party preferred not to travel on the JAT (Yugoslav airline) flight."

★★★

The organisers of next month's promotional visit by George Best and Denis Law are still searching for a club, preferably in the western suburbs, to host a dinner function involving the two former Manchester United team-mates on February 13.

At this stage the itinerary includes four major functions — St George Leagues Club (Feb 8), Coogee-Randwick RSL Club (Feb 9), North Sydney Leagues Club (Feb 10) and a charity match at St George Stadium, featuring a Best XI versus a Law XI, on February 11.

The charity match will be played as cur-

tain raiser to the QNSL game between Sydney Olympic and West Adelaide.

★★★



Les Scheinflug

WE couldn't have said it better ourselves, so it's amen to Blacktown's Paul Carter, who was quoted as saying that it would be a tragedy for Australian soccer if deposed Demons coach Les Scheinflug was out of the sport for too long.

★★★

MELITA EAGLES' new Argentine signing, Sergio Falce, is already a fan of QNSL football.

The former Second Division striker has only been in Australia for three and a half weeks but has already noticed the pace is quicker here.

He is also very impressed with the way Marconi plays. Who isn't?

★★★

ADELAIDE CITY has adopted a novel plan to 'keep on side' with State League clubs in SA.

The club has organised to distribute free passes for home games to the chairmen and secretaries of First and Second Division clubs.

★★★

FRANK Arok has all but conceded his side is out of the race for this season's Quit National Soccer League title.

And, as much as it hurt him to say it, Arok admitted the Saints were probably more a candidate for relegation than championship honours. Things don't look too good for us at the moment," he said at the weekend.

"I had banked on having a certain amount of points by this stage but we are well short of that target.

However, he remains confident St George's famous fighting spirit will come through.

"It is going to take a lot of hard work, but no one is afraid of that at this club," he said. "We all have a job to do and I am confident it will get done."

Arok said he will view each match from now on as a grand final.

"Unfortunately it won't be for some valuable trophy — it will be more a battle of survival," he said.

Arok is to be offered a three-year contract to continue coaching the Saints, according to managing director Tony Balazsi.

★★★

CLINT GOSLING has withdrawn from the New Zealand squad for the King's Cup tournament in Bangkok later this month because of the Newcastle earthquake. Gosling, who plays for Sydney Olympic, lives in Newcastle. His house had been damaged in the earthquake three weeks ago. The New Zealand Football Association says his replacement will be the veteran Frank van Hattum.

★★★

SYDNEY OLYMPIC last week announced a trading loss in the last financial year of \$107,215.

The loss for the year ended September 30 brings Olympic's total deficit to \$468,251 — and a tax bill of \$100,000 is due on January 31.

The club is seeking support from supporters to raise funds to pay off the Taxation Department.

★★★

BEST wishes to former NSW Federation Disciplinary Committee chief Andy Henderson, who will undergo heart surgery for a leaking valve at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Wahroonga, on February 12.

He hopes to be as fit as a fiddle afterwards. In his playing days, Henderson turned out

for Auburn, Granville and NSW.

Soccer was in the family blood. His father played State League in earlier days, and his uncle represented Australia back in the twenties as did brother Bill, a 'keeper.'

★★★

FORMER Sydney Olympic president and secretary Tom Doumani has been appointed chairman of the NSW Soccer Federation general purposes committee. His experience as a solicitor meant that he was very handy in dealing with disputes last season.

★★★

to find top form despite his side's crushing defeat at the weekend.

★★★
FORMER Yugal Club chief Maron ('Mick') Alagich has been in the wars, this time facing a knee reconstruction. Best wishes for better health!

★★★

MICHAEL COCKERILL, of the "Sydney Morning Herald" and Tom Anderson of the News Limited Group, will represent the Sydney soccer dailies at this year's World Cup finals. Tom Anderson has covered every World Cup since 1974.

★★★

soccer has yet to be even mentioned as a selling point in Melbourne's bid, which, we guess, may be part for the course in an Aussie Rules-mad society...

★★★
FFRENC PUSKAS was so impressed with the performance of Wollongong City goalkeeper Dragan Pupovac in last week's 0-0 draw against his South Melbourne side last weekend, that he rates him the best 'keeper he has seen — anywhere — for several years. High praise indeed.

★★★

Edwards at Watford

BY JOHN ECONOMOU



ALISTAIR EDWARDS

else going for him," Hickman asserted.

It was Hickman who lined up Edwards' trial at Watford.

The Sydney Olympic coach is a close friend of Watford's youth team manager Colin Lee.

It may be a good omen that Watford has installed Edwards into the same digs that mega-star John Barnes occupied when he was at Watford before being signed up by England giants, Liverpool.

THE

proceeds of today's Northern NSW v Torpedo Moscow match at the Newcastle International Sports Centre will go to the Newcastle Lord Mayor's Earthquake Relief fund.

★★★
IT was good to see the former Hakoah (Sydney City) physio pair of Jock McGroarty and Peter van Ryn at Lambert Park last Sunday for the Apia v Blacktown game. Both still retain a keen interest in the game. Van Ryn was also the popular physio/gear steward for Socceroo teams in the 1970s.

As far as we know,

A vanishing breed

BY KEITH GILMOUR

POSTWAR migration was the single most potent factor in the extension of club soccer interest in Australia.

Coupled with migration was a rise in junior activity, which was much more noticeable along the East Coast.

This was due to the already available infrastructure, which helped the game to expand at player level.

The aging of the largely European-sourced immigrant population has inevitably reduced crowd support.

One Sydney club president calculates that his club's supporter base will drop by four fifths in fifteen years' time, unless it discovers the means of recruiting a new and

younger following.

The junior base, springing from all sections of the NSW, Queensland and ACT community, by and large does not display quite the same degree of enthusiasm for the game which has been demonstrated by those born overseas.

This seems inevitable, considering the huge variety of sports available in Australia and the bent of the media towards many sports which have little or any impact in much of Europe.

And then the Australian climate points to much outdoor activity.

Certain main European migrant groups — Greek, Croatian, Macedonian, Italian and Maltese provide the spectator back-

bone of Australian NSL soccer.

Recent years have seen the emergence of other Europeans and particularly the Turks and Yugoslavs as well as South Americans.

Soccer has gained little at the top. All that has happened is a wider dispersal of attendances over more groups.

"Australian" and multi-national clubs have been largely confined to the East Coast.

The divisions into small groups will see some national groups entirely vanish.

Some have already done so, and others are on the way out. A pity, but inevitable.

At one stage it was fashionable for some to enjoy the disappearance of some Australian clubs in Sydney, but today migrant clubs such as Prague (Czechoslovak) and Sydney City (Jewish) have vanished from the scene and others realise that their futures could be limited.

This situation must be turned around.

Bigger units must be created and a link provided from the high class clubs to the huge numbers of juniors in their clubs and associa-

tions.

This must be done without interfering with the latter's voluntary operation.

In Melbourne there needs to be consideration to a widespread junior system with links to the senior clubs.

No proper arrangement has yet been devised to bring youngsters directly through, unless they are linked to a couple of nationalities.

As it often stands, if the youngster is of the nationality of the club he gets a run, otherwise his services often go to other sports.

The sport is football, and all must be given their chance if they have the ability and want it.

Links can be provided without too much hassle in cities such as Brisbane, Adelaide, Wollongong and Newcastle.

Putting such issues into place is no easy task.

But, when the Bradley Report is available, every consideration must be given to implementing its major recommendations.

It will need to be the equivalent of Queensland's famous Fitzgerald Report.

EDITOR
GEORGE BEST and Denis Law will conduct a coaching clinic at Valentine Park, Parklea on February 11.

John Kosmina, Dusan Purac and John Doyle will be in attendance.

The clinic starts at 9am. For details contact Sportsforce International (410-9819)

Interstate Series

WHilst European, Asian and South American countries regularly compete against each other, the far flung states of Australia have by and large failed to get their acts together and stage any recognisable sort of interstate series.

Other codes do it, cricket does it, but soccer, ostrich-like, keeps it head in the sand.

There is talk that the South Australian Soccer Federation was seeking a June series with the help of the SA Health Foundation.

Any series should be State of Origin, which, by the way, would turn a properly organised NSW-Queensland series into a sizzler.

— KEITH GILMOUR

PETERSHAM LUSITANOS
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567-7065 (AH)

ADELAIDE DOUBLE-HEADER



now that his four-game suspension is over.

MIDFIELDER Richard Miranda has been cleared from South Melbourne to play for Adelaide Hellas. The 27-year-old Socceroo still is based in Sydney but will jet to games each week.

Kiwi international Billy Wright also has returned to the club after a holiday period in Morwell. He is eligible to play



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BATHURST: BACK ROW l to r: Colin Tait, Mark Davis, Adrian Pickup, Max Simpson, Alan Lippiatt, Peter Hadley. FRONT ROW: Wayne Commerford, Mark Rooke, Graham Ross, Jason Rooke, Paul Clancy, Kenny Barwick, Mark Commerford.

Bathurst '75 determined to win back promotion

BY PAUL GOODMAN

THE 1990 season is destined to be another good one for the progressive Central Western NSW team of Bathurst '75.

Although unfortunate in being relegated to the Third Division for the new campaign, everything is in hand for a swift return to the State League proper.

Work on the club's new Kelso Park complex is well advanced and club president Alex Lamberton is confident that all will be in readiness for the opening fixture.

Should the club need more space, then the well appointed Carrington Park is always there to fit the bill for prestigious fixtures.

The foundations at Kelso Park were in place long before the Christmas break and everyone connected with the club is still hopeful that there might be a last-minute retrieve for the team, allowing it to return to Division 2 for another year.

Although placed last on the ladder, the team had some success on the field and in an extraordinarily wet season were always prepared to offer their facilities to the hard pressed Sydney clubs.

Indeed, plans for an end of season play-off series in Bathurst could have been a great triumph, but other competing clubs felt that a 1990 pre-season competition would be more appropriate.

Alas, that has had to be put on ice for at least one more year.

Bathurst '75 has announced the appointment of a senior administrator, Noel Cheggwidden, a former secretary of the club and well known local identity.

This move should ensure a further de-

gree of professionalism surrounding the club's activities and will go a long way to putting Bathurst back on the soccer map.

At the same time Bruce Rooke has taken over as the new secretary and Joe Smith will be the new treasurer.

During 1989 there were many fine performances and at the annual presentation night Mark Davis was awarded both Player of the Year and Player's Player trophies.

Tony Clancy won the Under 19 Player's Player and also the Most Improved Player tag.

STAND-OUT

Under 19 Player of the Year went to Stuart Brown, with the ceremony being conducted at the Argyle Inn.

Perhaps the standout of the year was the 3-1 home win over Sydney Macedonia.

That result compensated for the 0-5 reversal early in the season, which was one of a number of disappointing games before the club recorded its first success, a 4-1 home win over Waverley.

The double loss to neighbours Orange Waratah was keenly felt, for had the results been reversed then it would, instead, have been the rival side which suffered the drop.

Neither club realistically wants the other to lose its hard-won status, for the local derby games produce a big gate and enormous interest is generated during the season as comparisons are made between the two sides.

It would be futile for the two regional clubs to combine as neither set of supporters would wish to travel to support a team over 56 kilometres away and

players could hardly enjoy training under such circumstances.

The sensational win over Macedonia in July delighted home supporters and lifted the side enough for it to register a double in beating Waverley 2-0 at the awkward Coral Sea Park ground.

A fine 3-2 win over Yugal in late August was a great result and in the closing weeks '75 was always competitive and never

beaten by more than the odd goals, with the exception of its clashes with Orange which players will be anxious to avenge at the first opportunity.

It is not the first time that the club has lost its Second Division position and it has always bounced back.

Soccer in New South Wales can ill afford to lose as substantial a member as Bathurst for very long from its upper strata

California success

FORMERLY based in Brisbane and Sydney, Vic Ireland is presently successfully marketing his Academy Technique range of soccer gear in California.

Currently he is busy arranging a skills demonstration, to be held as part of the pre-match entertainment for the United States-USSR friendly international at Stanford University on February 24.

Speaking by telephone from Los Angeles, he said

"Bobby Moore will make a guest appearance, and we hope to have Pele along as well."

"Tickets are going like hot cakes and there is every possibility of a 70,000 crowd witnessing the game."

"On the family side, Jimmy Melia has recommended my son Gary to Chelsea."

"He is currently trialling with Admirals Wacker in Vienna."

Melia himself has cracked the jackpot

He is now coaching in Sharjah, one of the wealthy states in the United Arab Emirates.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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NSW Challenge Cup

THE Board of Directors of the NSW Federation have decided to include in the 1990 soccer calendar a pre-season knock-out competition to be known as the Challenge Cup.

This competition will be open to any affiliated club.

Subject to a minimum number of thirty-two (32) teams entering, prize money will be

★ WINNER	\$6,000.00
★ SECOND PLACE	\$3,000.00
★ LOSING SEMI-FINALISTS	\$1,500.00

Entry is via the official entry form published below and an entry fee of \$500 applies.

The Challenge Cup will start in late February 1990 and matches will be played both weekends and mid-week.

Clubs may nominate their ground as a venue for these matches.

Applications must be received at the NSW office by 5pm Wednesday, January 31, 1990.

Competition rules and Regulations will be forwarded to clubs on receipt of their entry.

ENTRY FORM

CLUB NAME:
PRESIDENT'S NAME:
(WORK) (HOME)
SECRETARY'S NAME:
ADDRESS:
(WORK) (HOME)
TEAM COACH'S NAME:
(WORK) (HOME)
TEAM MANAGER'S NAME:
(WORK) (HOME)

If you wish your ground to be considered as a venue please complete the following information:

GROUND:

ADDRESS:

Fully enclosed:
Public Address System: YES/NO
Telephone: YES/NO
Spectator seating: YES/NO
Match standard lights: YES/NO

YES/NO
YES/NO
Number:

NOTE: THE ENTRY FEE OF \$500 MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FORM.



North Shore will use Chatswood oval

BY KEITH GILMOUR

AFTER years playing under primitive conditions at Parklands Oval, north of the main centre of Hornsby, North Shore United appears to have struck it rich.

The club, which changed its name a year ago from Ku-ring-gai in order to embrace the entire area from Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Hawkesbury River Bridge, is to settle on the well regarded Chatswood Oval.

It expects to have Sunday nights home games, with rugby union playing on the



ALAN BOURKE

Saturdays.

Club president Don Allen said: "Whilst we expect to use Chatswood regularly, Artarmon Reserve is being renovated and we will get some use of that ground as well."

But the big news comes from Willoughby Municipal Council.

The Council has undertaken to transform open parkland in the Hallstrom Park area, off Willoughby Rd, Naremburn, into a first-class home for the club.

The new ground is surrounded by large areas of population and gives the club the home that it has sought for so many years.

YOUNG PLAYERS!

- Send your team pictures with players named to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.
- We will be glad to put them into print for you.

BHP AUSTRAL

THE name AUSTRAL first came into being in 1951 and was used by migrants at the Greta camp when they formed a team which was accepted into the NSW Second Division (Northern Section).

Many of the migrants were already talented football players, learning their skills in their European homelands.

It did not take long before evidence was produced as to the ability of these New Australians.

STABILITY, RECIPE FOR SUCCESSES

IN 1964 Austral United purchased three hectares of land at Birmingham Gardens, and after many years of volunteer labour and fund-raising activities, by 1972 had laid the foundation for what has developed into one of the region's finest grounds.

The club then focused its attention on obtaining licensed premises and this dream was realised when it was opened in August 1980.

Since then, Austral United has operated the licensed club as an integral part of its overall activities.

Despite downturns in the fortunes of registered clubs, Austral has continued to present improved balance sheets each year and consequently been able to channel a share of the profits into the club's soccer activity.

Stability, sound management, and endeavour are the key words when describing Austral's past and future development.

Never in its history has Austral United attempted a move that would over-extend the club's finances or erode the strong economic base established.

In late 1987 Austral United purchased the contracts of the former Newcastle Rosebud United Soccer Club with the intention of fielding a side in the NSW State League, further developing the soccer activity within the club structure.

In the inaugural year both the under 19s and seniors reached the semi-finals.

The club's long-term objectives are to establish a successful soccer team playing at the highest standard available to a Newcastle side.

Competing against established clubs, they were runners-up in the first year.

Promoted to the First Division in 1952 they came up against better company but still finished a creditable sixth.

Adolf Mocher, himself a Greta player and coach, along with brothers Con and John Mitsios, Tim Smith

Some of the Greta migrants remained in the Hunter and others were arriving to settle and start a new life.

Adolf Mocher, himself a Greta player and coach, along with brothers Con and John Mitsios, Tim Smith

son, S. Seogramillo, A. Mocher and S. Gounis.

A new start meant a new name and for the first time NEWCASTLE appeared. NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL was born.

Football

Austral were nomads in their formative years, playing at Mayfield, Charles-town, and Wallsend among other grounds.

They were to taste success early in 1957 when they won promotion from the Second Division having gone through the season undefeated.

The sixties were the golden years as far as football was concerned, winning the premiership once and runners-up on three occasions.

The highlights were the two grand final wins in 1966 and '69, beating Adamstown 2-1 after a 1-1 draw, and accounting for Weston 3-2 in the club's second triumph.

On both these occasions present coach, Willie Gallagher, was in the team

His assistant, Peter Fairleigh, also took part in the 1966 grand final as a player on the losing side of the day.

In the late sixties Newcastle Austral purchased land at Birmingham Gardens and started the long road towards self-reliance.

In 1978, the same year Newcastle KB United made its appearance in the National Soccer League, a name change was necessary to obtain a liquor license for the proposed club.

The name Austral United was chosen.

The directors of that time made many sacrifices.

Commitment of time and money was needed if the dream of a clubhouse was to be realised.

So much so that football took a back seat and in 1980 the team dropped to the Second Division.

Evidence now proves that those bold decisions were the correct ones.

Austral United returned to First Division football in 1985 and now it was full



CRAIG CARTER

steam ahead to prove that they were the leading club in the north.

It didn't take long.

Finishing third in the 1987 premiership, the side went on to win its third grand final.

Again it was Adamstown Rosebud who were to become the victims in perhaps one of the greatest fight-backs in the history of soccer in Australia.

Being 0-2 behind at the half-time whistle, the situation looked impossible.

However, a strong performance from every player was justly rewarded.

By scoring three second half goals, Austral had their name on the trophy once again.

The opportunity arose for Austral to take the place of Newcastle Rosebud in the NSW State League, and after lengthy negotiations, all was ready for Austral to add further to their illustrious history.

They adopted their original name NEWCASTLE AUSTRAL, and at their first attempt they reached the 1988 semi-finals,

both at senior level and in the under 19 youth competition.

The second year in the NSW State League was highlighted by the successful sponsorship deal struck between NBN Television, FAI Insurance, and Radio 2HD.

These generous sponsors helped Austral financially, and assisted the club gain a higher media and community profile than in past years.

1989 was also one of forward planning.

Ambitious plans for the development of Austral Park were disclosed mid-year.

If implemented, Austral Park will truly be the showpiece of soccer in the north.

On the field of play, a poor start to the 1989 competition saw Austral face the task of clawing its way up the table for much of the season.

The team left its run too late to make the final series and finished sixth.

Despite this, the squad is likely to be better prepared for the 1990 season thanks to the \$100,000 sponsorship from BHP.



WILLIE GALLAGHER

By now the migrants had become more familiar with their new country, many travelled further afield to find employment and some were offered money to play football in other areas.

1953 was a disaster. Quality players had gone, few if any wished to travel to Greta, a long way in those days, when they could get a game anywhere in Newcastle or the Coalfields.

Elected to office were Mr J. Holmes, President, Mr T. W. Smith, Secretary, Mr C. Mitsios, Treasurer, Mr N. Olsen, Senior Vice President.

The committee comprised of Messrs. A. H. Frew, S. Koskyro, F. Rodolfo, A. Lipinski, S. Filitsios, K. David-

and Ralph Grieves, among others, got together to reform the club in 1956.

The first officially recorded meeting took place at 303 Hunter Street, Newcastle, more commonly known as the Embassy Cafe, on Friday, June 26, 1956.

On both these occasions present coach, Willie Gallagher, was in the team



HOWARD TREDDINNICK

HONOURS

Grand Finals 1st Div:

1966 vs Adamstown R 2-2
vs Adamstown R 2-1*
1967 vs Lake Macquarie 2-2
vs Lake Macquarie 3-6*

1969 vs Weston 3-2

1987 vs Adamstown R 3-2

Grand Finals 2nd Div:

1957 vs Kurri Kurri 3-0
1981 vs Doyalson Wyee 4-1
1983 vs Cardiff 0-3
1984 vs Wallsend 2-0

Finalists

1st Div 1970

Semi Finals

1st Div 1963, 84, 86

2nd Div 1957

Premiership

1st Div 1967

2nd Div 1957, 81, 84

Runner Up

1st Div 1964, 66, 69, 70
2nd Div 1983

Semi Finalist State League

1st Div 1988

Miller Cup: 1957, Ampol Cup 1960, 66, 68, Craven "A"
Cup 1963, 64, 67
*replay



AUSTRAL'S RECORD OVER THE YEARS

Biggest home win	13 1 vs BHP *	16/6/57	2nd Div
Biggest home loss	0 7 vs Adamstown R	14/6/71	1st Div
	1 8 vs Lake Mac'	15/7/73	1st Div
	1 8 vs H'lon Azz	6/6/78	1st Div
Biggest away win	9 ■ vs Kotara Sth	18/4/81	2nd Div
Biggest away loss	1 8 vs Toronto A	1/5/77	1st Div
	0 7 vs H'lon Azz	26/5/79	1st Div
Highest Agg'	14 vs BHP *	16/6/57	2nd Div
Fastest Goal Robbie Holden	vs Rockdale	25 sec	21 8.88
		(at Seymour Shaw Sutherland)	
Ground record	vs Socceroos	31/8/88	. 7455
Highest Points	42 vs (3 points a win) 31 (2 points a win)	1984 1988	2nd Div 1st NSW
Most games	Ken Twidle	232	1963/72
Most goals (agg')	Ken Twidle	133	1963/72
Most goals (season)	Richard Graham	39	1960
Longest without loss	between	2/6/57 to	13/4/58
Longest winning run	between	2/6/57 to	11/8/57
Highest Trans Fee (buy)	Howie Tredinnick	\$4000	1986
Home ground Austral Park	Capacity	110 metres x 80 metres	12 000
Ground dimensions			
*Stamina Cup			



NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE NORTH

AIS back in Top Four

BY ANDY CURRIS and PETER KONSTANTO

THE AIS moved back into the Top 4 of the NYL after a 1-1 draw against Wollongong City. However, they should have taken both points as they completely dominated proceedings. Another contributing factor to the scoreline was the strong defence of Wollongong who withheld everything AIS threw at them.

The AIS should have taken the lead as early as the fourth minute when Trajanovski with an open goal in front of them, hit the crossbar and the ball bounced away.

The AIS were becoming frequently frustrated by the Wollongong goalkeeper Atsas who was pulling off some great saves.

In the 80th minute, the AIS finally hit the lead when Kindtner laid a great throughball to Trajanovski who while attempting to cross miscued and the ball floated towards the Wollongong goal.

Atsas could only get hand to the ball and Sorras, following through, scooped on the loose ball and placed it in the net.

Two minutes into extra-time, Wollongong equalised after a scramble.

ble in the penalty area where the ball fell to Simonovski who placed his shot perfectly past the keeper.

AIS Juric Jones Hiller, Wells Coliba Romanuk, Sevin Trajanovski, Sorras, Kindtner, Cranney, Pangallo, Malone

APIA LEICHARDT
BLACKTOWN CITY

At Lambert Park it was a tale of two halves — Apia were the better side in the first half, creating a number of scoring opportunities, and were rewarded with a goal in the 11th minute.

Reda converted after a great throughball from Reyes caused confusion in the Blacktown defence. The keeper was caught off his line and Reda simply chipped the ball into the net to put Apia ahead.

The tide turned in the second half, though, when Blacktown City started putting together some sustained attacks.

In the 67th minute, Langan made a great run down the right and his cross found Connolly whose header was flicked on.

The ball went to ground and when keeper Hughes failed to cover the ball Comerford for Blacktown pounced to score with a very tight angled left foot shot.

APIA LEICHARDT: Hughes, Lahane, Petterson, Stenard, Cosentino, Franz, Reyes, Gulic, Beaufils, Reda, Pisano, Butera, Gatto, Mida, Ohm, Ddouh.

BLACKTOWN CITY: Majton, Tyerman, Langan, Begbie, Comerford, Sterney, Shpley Bourke, McArchie, Ferguson, Rogers, Crews, Hagger, Sultana, Connolly

ST GEORGE 3
MELITA EAGLES 1

St George opened the scoring in the 19th minute when Adam Poric collected the ball inside the box, turned and shot past Melita Eagles goalkeeper, Tony Marco, with a strong right foot shot.

Melita Eagles equalised just after half-time through Alex Aravena, when his flicked-on header from a Sergio Falce corner beat Mario Saia in the St George goal by its sheer pace.

The Saints began to take command of the game and their dominance was rewarded when substitute Shaun Freestone passed neatly for Poric to get his second goal with a fine shot from five metres in the 69th minute.

An excellent move in midfield gave St George their final goal and assured them of victory in the 75th minute. Poric backheeled cheekily to Jim Morakes who laid on a pass for John Kakakios to fire past Marco with a powerful low drive with the outside of his right foot to curl the ball just inside the post.

ST GEORGE: Saia, Jervis, Augerinos, Hickman, Haraghi, Vladan (Nolfe), Petrides, Morakes, Poric, Kakakios, Adoski (Freestone)

MELITA EAGLES: Marco, Souris, Rizzotto, Curmi, Novakmat, Cabral, Pennich, Pintos, Parison, Aravena, Falce.

CUP

SYDNEY CROATIA 1
MARCONI 2

In the 43rd minute, Croatia went ahead when Velemir Kupresak made a strong run down the leftwing and his accurate cross was

headed in by Kardum from about eight metres out.

Marconi replied immediately right on half-time when Messina collected a ball from the midfield on the left, centred for Carluccio who slotted home from about 10 metres out.

In the second half, Colucci raced down the right flank out into the Croatian penalty area and sent a square ball to Messina who drove the ball home from 12 metres to give Marconi their winning goal.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken, Baricic, Zizic, Babic, Bojkovski, French, Prusac, Kupresak, Marin, Williams, Kardum, Krajnovic, Moric, Sharp

MARCONI: Schwarzer, Carluccio, Surjan, Charlwood, Mammoni, Suzor, Clune, Colucci, Viella, Colagiuri, Messina

P W D L F A Pts
APIA 8 4 3 1 10 5 11
St George 6 4 1 1 11 6 9
AIS 5 3 1 1 11 4 7
Sydney Olympic 6 3 1 2 7 4 7
Melita Eagles 7 3 1 3 7 10 7
Blacktown City 6 2 2 4 9 8 8
Wollongong City 7 2 2 3 7 8 6
Marconi 6 1 2 3 5 6 4
Sydney Croatia 7 1 2 4 7 10 4

GOALSCORERS:

Trajanovski (AIS) 4
Poric (St George) 4
Panison (Melita Eagles) 3
Sorras (AIS) 3
Cardozo (Sydney Olympic) 3

RESULTS:

Altona Gate inflicted a 3-0 defeat on South Melbourne Hellas White in a match which was relegated to an outside pitch to save the main ground at Middle Park.

Altona Gate dominated the first half against the wind, and took the lead in 22 minutes when Tony Grozdanovski fired over a cross from the touch-line which deceived the keeper.

Arthur Davis scored Altona Gate's second from the penalty spot

Torpedo Big Test

(continued from page 1)

"He is well known to us, having been involved with the Malmo team early last year.

"KAM is involved with the coming visit by England to Tunisia, and is extensively involved with tours in Asia generally and the Gulf countries in particular."

One national team and a highly rated European club team are believed to be high on the list, as well a crack South American club.

"I expect that the ASF will be in a position to confirm all arrangements as soon as the paperwork has been completed," he added.

Mr Vessey is waiting for further details of the six nation tournament in Jakarta in August.

"A personal invitation was extended to Australia by Dr Nugraha Besoes, the general secretary of the All Indonesia Football Federation.

"I expect that the ASF will be in a position to confirm all arrangements as soon as the paperwork has been completed," he added.

and made it 3-0 when he capitalised on a defensive error near the end. Hellas had its best spell in the second half with Chris Athanasakos and Arthur Robotis coming close with headers.

Melbourne Croatia beat Sunshine George Cross 5-1 at Skinner Reserve.

Melbourne City JUST was 3-0 up and coasting against Caulfield City with 10 minutes to play but in an amazing reversal Caulfield hit back to grab a point.

For JUST, Saso Becinovski added two to his goal tally and the other came from John Pantazidis. Caulfield's resurgence was the result of two goals from Bill Tsakkas, and JUST conceded a crucial own goal.

Adrian Cervinski's third consecutive hat-trick gave North Geelong its third victory in a row, this time over Clifton Hill at Elcho Park. Miro Stosic scored the other goal.

The first North goal came in 10 minutes as Adrian Cervinski scissor-kicked home a corner kick. The Clifton Hill keeper then kicked the ball straight to Ivan Dragicevic, who returned it into the penalty area, where Cervinski

was played on-side by the left back.

The striker calmly slotted the ball home. North added a third goal almost from the kick-off of the second half. Zoran Roso took the ball to the byeline and cut it back for Miro Stosic to finish.

Melbourne City conceded a penalty, which allowed Clifton Hill to get back in the game, when H Staikuras converted, but Adrian Cervinski completed his hat-trick with another overhead scissors-kick.

Geelong City's topsy-turvy results continued when it lost by the only goal of the game to Heidelberg United at Olympic Village.

Results

South Melbourne Hellas White 0 Altona Gate 3 (Grozdanovski, Davis 2). Preston Macedonia 3 (Cassar, Ferrante 2) South Melbourne Hellas Blue 1 (Telenjatis). Sunshine George Cross 1 (Svigos) Melbourne Croatia 5 (Opasinis 2, Lovric, Bacak, Silje). Heidelberg United 1 (Tangalos) Geelong City 0, North Geelong 4 Clifton Hill 1

Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb Croatia	8	8	0	0	27	6	16
Altona Gate	9	7	0	2	28	8	14
SMWH	11	8	2	3	8	1	14
Sunshine GC	10	5	3	2	23	18	13
Melb City JUST	10	4	3	3	21	6	11
Geelong City	10	5	1	4	17	20	11
North Geelong	9	4	0	5	22	21	8
Preston Macedonia	8	4	0	4	13	12	8
East Richmond	9	4	0	5	16	18	8
Heidelberg United	10	3	2	5	12	20	8
Caulfield City	9	0	4	5	10	20	4
Clifton Hill	6	1	0	5	3	16	2
SMHB	9	0	1	8	6	30	1

ROSEBURY PORTUGAL SOCCER CLUB

— A friendly club — invites

PLAYERS TO TRIAL

for First Grade and Under 19s for 1990 Second Division State League season.

- Training every Tuesday 6pm
- Turruwull Park, Rothschild Ave, Rosebery.

or contact Roger or Palmer

669 2591 (B)

or Kelly Cross

868 5535 (AH)

INDOOR REFEREE

Mark Cotter of NSW has won the 1989 award as Indoor Referee of the Year, and deservedly so after some good performances on the court.

The award was presented at the NISL's recent Presentation Dinner.

Congratulations on a fine performance, which we regret was omitted from last week's edition.

ARGENTINAS

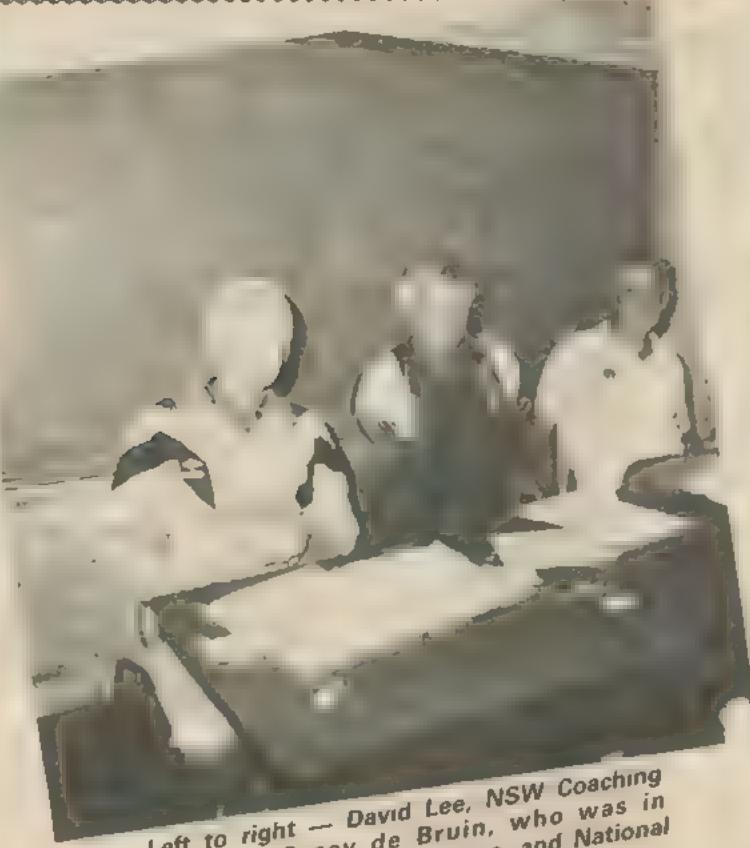
AEROLINEAS ARGENTINAS

SUITE 1203, 33 BLIGH STREET, SYDNEY, NSW

Buenos Aires — it's on your way!

A7952

18 AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY — JANUARY 17, 1990



Left to right — David Lee, NSW Coaching Director, Casey de Bruin, who was in charge of the Level 3 Course, and National Director of Coaching Eddie Thomson.



The participants at the Level 3 Coaching Course. Back Row — left to right: Lee, Frew, Brizuela, Estavillo, Manuel, Heywood, Vardzejewski, Shannon, Paveia, Hutchinson, Grant, George, Villani, Tradjevski, Galanakis, Goldie, Espinoza, Griffiths, McAlister, Boardman, Selby, James. Front row: L to R: Casey de Bruin, Oscar, Moro, Dick, Hutch, Porter, Cullini, Henderson, Halliday, Baker, Hodges, Jirsa, Campion, Mandic.

The recently concluded Level 3 Coaching Course at Valentine Park, Parklea, was an outstanding success. Over 300 candidates were involved, with Casey de Bruin in charge. He was assisted by Chris James, and National Director of Coaching Eddie Thomson opened proceedings while NSW Director of Coaching David Lee was also prominent. Helping with demonstration work were members of the NSW under 15 squad.



Photos this page
by Hector Carrasco

Attentive coaches during a lecture.



The NSW under 15s who assisted the coaches at Parklea: Luke Casserley, David Rave, Scott Allen, Ivan Topic, Jon Grima, Frank Mazotta, Jason Holmes, John Perosh, Andrew Dowling, Ken Stajic, Dan Aguilera, Peter Tsenkans, Andrew Riches.



David Lee (left) and Casey de Bruin demonstrate their coaching skills.



**ALAN CLARK
REVIEWS**
The Soccer Scene
in . . .

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Foundation S.A.

PROMOTING A STATE OF HEALTH

FORMER Para Hills coach Barry Simpson is to lead First Division Amateur League side The Cove next season.

The Cove has gained promotion regularly and eventually hopes to gain Federation status.

It believes Simpson can help achieve that aim.

THIS season's 31st Ampol Cup night series will be the last for the petrol company's State manager Bill Arthur.

He retires early next year.

But Ampol again will back the tournament to the tune of \$30,000.

A special commemorative gift, valued at \$500, will be awarded to the Player of the Series.

Trophy winner Adelaide Croatia's Ivica Jurkovic won the award last year.

The series kicked off January 5.

THE SA Soccer Federation is likely to 'get tough' over players playing in charity matches without permission of their club.

In accordance with a by-law, anyone wishing to run a charity benefit match outside normal competition must apply to the SASF giving particulars of the purpose of the match and indicating that clubs have allowed players to

play. Players must have their club's approval or could be deemed in breach of contract.

MCDONALD'S Family Restaurant is to sponsor THE Vacation Soccer Schools in SA for the next three years.

They will provide skills awards for every level for the schools, which are run four times a year.

PROMOTED Cumberland has appointed former player Graham Stanbridge as junior soccer coordinator next season.

Stanbridge, who has a coaching record of success in amateur soccer, led West Beach last year. Former Rothmans Medal winner Wally Bojczuk will be playing coach there next season.

Meanwhile, strongman Foxes defender Mark Worsman is working hard to resurrect his career which seemed in jeopardy with a knee reconstruction.

"He is doing extensive rehabilitation work with swimming and bike riding," said coach Dave Baker, "so we shall just have to wait to see how he progresses."

WHILE most people are still getting used to the idea of being in the 90s, AIS head coach Ron Smith is looking ahead to the mid-part of the decade and beyond.

Thirty young players from Queensland, NSW, Northern NSW, South Australia and Victoria have been showing their paces at the institute, hoping to secure one of the precious scholarships either in May or at the end of the year

categories: Those who have explosive speed but little endurance; those who work all day but who find it difficult to develop explosive qualities. Finally, those who have both.

It is from this third class that the stars of tomorrow are most like

ly to be found, although special training programmes can counter the weaknesses of those in the other two.

"Take the case of a currently successful international team," say West Germany, "Smith said. "The players will generally be a couple of centimetres either side of 1.82m (the shorties are getting rarer at this level), they will all have good abilities and pace, with a few who are exceptionally quick."

If he can find half-a-dozen players from among the current trialists to fit that kind of profile, Smith will be well satisfied. In the short term they will be in the box seat for a place in the Young Socceroo side for the 1993 World Youth Cup.

And, hopefully, will be providing the backbone of the senior Socceroo team around the end of the decade we have just entered.

Obtain
ASW
every
Wednesday!



RON SMITH: talent-spotter.

Some of the youngsters are there on the recommendation of their state coaches but most have been selected by Smith who spends much of his time scouring the country for talent.

They have been put through a series of physiological tests as well as training routines and trial matches.

The aim, as always, is to find the perfect player and the process of selection is a detailed one.

Most essentially, the individual must have talent. From there they tend to fall into three

AUSTRALIAN Soccer Federation chairman Ian Brusasco will come to Canberra this month to make a personal plea for the money he believes is essential for the development of the game at international level.

He will be arguing for a special levy — \$1 for



Award winner Peter Savill.

Savill takes Tassie award

BY WALTER PRESS IN HOBART

PETER Savill, player-coach of Cadbury State League club Launceston Juventus, has won the inaugural Vic Tuting Silver Medal in Tasmania.

The medal, which is awarded to the State's best and fairest player and which replaces the Rothmans Gold Medal, was presented to Savill at a function at Hobart's Wrest Point Hotel Casino by Mr Vic Tuting MBE, an executive member of the ASF.

Savill polled 20 votes, one ahead of joint second-place getters Steve Kannegger (Hobart Juventus) and Peter Sawdon (Devonport City).

Ulverstone midfielder Andrew Howe, finished third with 18 votes from the referees, who award votes on a 3-2-1 basis after every State League match.

Craig Nichols of Olympia was fourth with 17 votes, while Mark Leszczynski, the popular captain and sweeper of league champion, White Eagles, was next on 16 votes.

Savill came to Tasmania from England in 1979 after a spell with the famous Leeds United. He had been signed as a junior for the club by the late Don Revie.

He joined Launceston Juventus and has played with the club ever since. The 1989 season was his second stint as player-coach of the club.

Savill, who is equally at home in either midfield or defence, is a Tasmanian representative and was assistant coach of the Tasmanian side that played Northern New South Wales in Newcastle at the end of the 1988 season.

Ulverstone coach Alec McDonald was named as the Cadbury State League Coach of the Year at the presentation evening.

PLAYERS WANTED



ARNCLIFFE SOCCER CLUB

5th Division NSW State League

All players interested in playing for the above Club are notified that training trials commence 23rd January.

Training sessions will be held every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, starting at 7pm sharp.

For further inquiries, please contact:

Mr Peter Licovski ☎ 318 3083 (BM)
☎ 599 2161 (AH)



HELLAS PARRAMATTA SOCCER CLUB

Players and Coaches wanted for our Association teams all ages, from Juniors to Seniors to play in the Granville Association Competition.

Players also wanted for 1st and 2nd Grade teams to play in the Federation.

For further details, please contact:

C. Alexander ☎ (02) 631 0513
A. Stamatis ☎ (02) 636 7146
C. Zaravinos ☎ (02) 671 2805



Ian Brusasco

each registered junior player, \$5 for every senior player, senior referee and coach — all of which will go into the support of Australia's international commitments.

ACTSF vice-president Steve Darby, who backs the levy, said Australia now had to support four international teams. "We compete at under 17, youth, Olympic and senior levels," he said.

"Because of our



The World Cup beckons Meola

TONY Meola had his 1990 contract somewhere in the house, but he hadn't gotten around to reading the fine print yet.

The young man whose goalkeeping led the United States into the World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years was happy to continue celebrating 1989, a year that will live forever both in his memory and in US soccer.



TONY MEOLA — America's pride and joy.

Meola, 20, started the final four games of the USA's regional qualifying effort and kept a clean scoresheet four times, the last on November 19 in the 1-0 win at Trinidad and Tobago.

Then he went on to lead the University of Virginia to a share of the US intercollegiate soccer title.

And he won a trophy as the top collegiate player of the year.

"The funny thing is, when I set those goals at the beginning of the

year, I didn't think they were beyond reach," Meola said.

"It was like they were all pieces in the puzzle."

The intercollegiate title helped Meola put another piece in place.

When the tournament ended, he announced his expected decision to pass up his final two years of college eligibility and pursue professional opportunities

At a young age Sofianos, a member of a large poor family, lost his father. He was often called upon to help feed his family and during the depression he was nearly killed by Nazi bullets after stealing some bread.

Theft became a way of life for young Sofianos and he was often caught by police and sent to a detention home.

But his love for soccer would not be denied and after a short stint with an amateur club he joined Panathinaikos in 1953 and starred for the club until 1958. He later played for Olympiakos and Aris before leaving the sport in 1964.

And he always had a soft spot for his poor relatives and friends, providing them with the money he earned and leaving very little for himself.

Yet, soccer did not pull him out of his unstable life. He continued to find himself in jail for thefts and later for use of drugs. A number of times Panathinaikos had to pull strings to get him released from jail.

The first time was in 1954 when Panathinaikos played AEK for the Athens championship. That Sunday Sofianos was escorted out of prison by police and scored both goals to lift Panathinaikos to a 2-1 victory.

He also is about to sign an endorsement deal for goalie's gloves.

Tottenham's Gary Lineker pleads for a free kick as Southampton keeper Tim Flowers saves. Southampton won 3-1 a fortnight ago.

The sad story of Lakis Sofianos

IN a dingy cell of the Koriadollos Prison near Athens recently, former Greek soccer star Lakis Sofianos was found hanging.

He decided to end his often troublesome, often heroic life at the end of a twisted bedsheet.

The second time he was allowed out of jail for a match was in the winter of 1955 with Panathinaikos facing Olympiakos Volos.

Despite being in jail for one-and-a-half months, Sofianos was cheered on by the thousands of fans who saw him score five goals and lead Panathinaikos to an 8-1 victory!

He finished as the second highest scorer in the league with nine goals in 1955 and in 1957 with 11 goals. Sofianos also played for the Greek national team during those two years.

There are many stories of Sofianos's gamesmanship.

He often threw a handful of dirt in the face of opponents and goalkeepers when the referee was not looking and even scored goals that way.

Panathinaikos, in an effort to help him out, opened a general store for him, but he robbed it so many times that they took it away from him. He then worked as a taxi driver in Athens.

After giving up soccer in Greece, he left for West Germany, leaving his wife and two daughters to find work in order to send them money.

When he returned to Greece, he once again was in and out of jail. In 1971 he lost his arm when he was thrown out of a train near Belgrade.

Those that knew Sofianos said: "He was very good to everyone, but very bad for himself."

— courtesy WORLD SOCCER

MPs stand up for UK clubs

BRITISH MPs have demanded that the government act to ease the crippling cost of policing football matches for clubs.

They have said that clubs should pay a "reasonable" charge based on the average size of home gates and their income.

Home Secretary David Waddington is to be urged to ease the burden faced by many clubs to meet the cost of policing home matches.

According to Tom Pendry, chairman of the all-party House of Commons Football Committee, "an already serious situation will worsen

immeasurably with the introduction of the identity card scheme.

"The Home Secretary must now undertake a review of the entire situation.

"In many cases this is a crippling burden which many clubs are simply unable to afford.

"The football hooligan is society's problem — not football's. Therefore this is a cost which should be borne, in the main, by the community", he added.

Under existing arrangements, football clubs meet the cost of police inside the ground, but not those stationed outside.

Boro cleared

MIDDLESBROUGH have been cleared of any blame by police after a joint inquiry into the crowd crush during their match against Leeds at Ayresome Park.

Several Leeds fans were hurt when the crowd surged forward in the visitors' enclosure and play was held up for 15 minutes.

Chief Superintendent Terry Tasker said he was satisfied the enclosure was not dangerously overcrowded.

The reduced capacity

of 2,100 had been exceeded by not more than 60 when Leeds fans were transferred from another section of the ground.

"Fans who surged forward were predominantly young men of a boisterous nature who were jumping up and down and enjoying themselves," he said.

"We are satisfied the arrangements were satisfactory according to requirements following the Lord Justice Taylor report after Hillsborough."



Toulouse goalkeeper Robin Huc stands on no ceremony as he punches the ball away from team-mate Delpech (left) and Marseille's Enzo Francescoli in French league action.

Goodbye to the eighties — the decade of death and power

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE

SOCER has always reflected the society in which it is played, but the 1980s threw into sharper relief the trends which have shaped recent world history.

It was sadly appropriate that the final year of the decade should encapsulate all the elements which have marked and marred the game.

Death, disaster, the growing cult of violence, the pursuit of power, the win-at-all-costs ethos and the opening up of Eastern Europe all found a place in the annals of world football.

At the end of a decade which had already brought the spectre of death to the terraces in the shape of the Heysel riot and the Bradford fire of 1985, the enduring image of 1989 will be the horrific sight of panic on the faces of fans crushed against wire fencing at Sheffield where 95 Liverpool supporters died.

Many thousands of words and nearly as many pictures have already recorded that grim afternoon in graphic detail.

Sheer exuberance and enthusiasm on the part of the fans and a suspicion of official inability to cope tragically exposed the words of the late Billy Shankly.

Mourned

The former Liverpool manager, when asked if football was a matter of life and death, replied: "Nae, it's more important than that."

As the entire city of Liverpool mourned its dead, present manager Kenny Dalglish summed up the feelings of everyone. "The FA Cup isn't worth it. There is nothing worth one death, let alone 100."

The shockwaves reverberated around the world, and in the new spirit of "glasnost" which prevails in the Soviet Union, the long-concealed truth about the world's worst stadium tragedy began slowly to emerge.

SOVIETSKI SPORT admitted for the first time that in 1982 at least 340 fans were crushed on an icy staircase after the UEFA Cup match between Moscow Spartak and Haarlem of Holland.

Violence, on and off the field, took on a new dimension across the globe. Ajax of Amsterdam were involved in two notorious incidents.

A 17-year-old fan hurled an iron bar at Austria Vienna goalkeeper Roland Wohlfahrt, causing UEFA to ban the club from all European com-

petition for a year.

But the most frightening development was when fans of Ajax's great rivals Feyenoord of Rotterdam hurled home-made bombs into the Amsterdam stadium, injuring 19 people.

Greek club AEK Athens were also banned from Europe for a year after their fans ran riot against Marseille of France.

English, Dutch and German fans all furthered their reputations for hooliganism, and in Italy the traditional Sunday afternoon of football frequently turned to terror.

Stabbed

A Roma fan was stabbed to death in Milan. Fiorentina fans attacked a train carrying Bologna supporters with petrol bombs leaving an 11-year-old maimed for life.

The most bizarre incident of the year came in Rio de Janeiro when Brazil were playing Chile in a World Cup qualifying tie.

When a flare was hurled onto the field, Chilean goalkeeper Roberto Rojas crumpled to the ground, apparently seriously injured.

Rojas was carried off on a stretcher and the Chileans marched off in protest, later calling for the match to be replayed.

But FIFA would have none of it. Chile were thrown out of the 1990 World Cup, which will cost them an estimated \$1.5 million, and Rojas was banned for life for feigning injury.

Also suspended were the Federation president and team doctor who filed a bogus medical report and Fernando Astengo, the vice-captain who led the walk-off. One senior FIFA official termed the incident "an aggression against world football."

In a curious footnote to the affair, the young woman who admitted hurling the flare has since cashed in on her "15 minutes of fame" by appearing naked in a glossy magazine centrefold.

Aggression raised its head in Glasgow, too, where almost overnight Mo Johnston became the biggest hate figure in Scotland.

Johnston's crime was two-fold and alienated the entire city. He first agreed and then reneged on a transfer from Nantes back to his old club Celtic. By signing for bitter rivals Rangers he became the first Catholic player to play for Protestant Rangers.

Celtic fans were upset at the betrayal, and



ROBERTO ROJAS — "Faker" of the decade?

Rangers fans ripped up season tickets in protest. Johnston, having received death threats, is still accompanied everywhere by bodyguards.

The 1980s were the years of free enterprise, upward mobility and the worship of wealth.

In that respect no-one epitomised the decade better than Diego Maradona who was transformed from teenage prodigy into multi-millionaire superstar.

He successfully negotiated one or two awkward moments, notably the "hand of God" goal which he punched past England goalkeeper Peter Shilton in Mexico and persistent allegations of links with the Neapolitan Mafia, the Camorra.

But in 1989 Maradona, named the "Sportsman of the Decade," very nearly overstepped the mark.

Maradona went absent without leave and unilaterally extended his summer holiday, failing to return to Napoli from Argentina for more than a month after the start of the season.

Threat

It was only the threat of a multi-million dollar lawsuit for breach of contract and loss of advertising revenue that brought him home, underlining that the lure of the limelight is as strong as ever.

Maradona also provided the extravaganza of the year, when he hired a jumbo jet, a luxury hotel and a fleet of chauffeur-driven cars to transport friends to his wedding in Buenos Aires.

It was the kind of spectacular production that once only film stars could contrive.

If the plane had gone down over the Atlantic, it would have taken the cream of Italian and Spanish football, along with many leading administrators with it.

There was further proof that money can buy you anything as

claimed that a senior party official bribed referees to favour Dynamo Berlin.

The destruction of the Berlin Wall saw Andreas Thom become the first East German to be officially transferred to a Western club on the first day of the new decade when he left Dynamo Berlin for Bayer Leverkusen.

Soviet players, too, are benefiting from greater freedom of travel. Goalkeeper Rinat Dassayev moved to Seville and Juventus recruited Sergei Aleinikov and Alexander Zavarov.

Now two other internationals from Dynamo Kiev, Alexei Mikhailichenko and Oleg Protasov, are the subject of an auction among Italian clubs eager to capitalise on their release after the World Cup.

Three great internationals of recent times all met untimely deaths, all in car crashes. Kazimierz Denys of Poland died in California, English winger Laurie Cunningham in Spain, and Italian hero and captain Gaetano Scirea was killed on the road in Poland.

France also witnessed the most curious drug case. Toulon player Philippe Anziani was suspended after admitting taking a banned analgesic, which if anything has a tranquilising rather than performance-enhancing effect.

So he became the most unfortunate player since Scotland's Willie Johnston came home in disgrace from the 1978 World Cup, after taking pep pills which had been so ineffective the trace could not have been discerned in his performances.

The more sinister side of the drug business came to light in Colombia, where the season was officially halted to try to drive the cocaine barons out of the game, following the murder of one referee and the kidnapping of another.

The new decade begins with the World Cup finals, and many fear the peace of Italy will be torn apart by spectator violence.

Nowhere is this more of a possibility than in Cagliari, where England will play Holland, Egypt and the Republic of Ireland.

As one commentator suggested, if FIFA and the organising committee had been paying more attention to the dangers than fixing the draw to favour certain nations, they might have seen that one coming.



Crewe's Chris Cutler (right) fights a lone battle against Chelsea defender Clive Wilson and goalkeeper Dave Beasant in their third-round 1-1 FA Cup draw.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

- By a strange twist of fate, Trinidad and Tobago played in the first 1990 World Cup qualifier — way back in November 1987, against Guyana — and in the very last one — when they lost 1-0 to the United States. T&T's Faustin scored the first World Cup goal and the US' Caliguri the last.
- It's panic stations at the BBC . . . They have discovered that the World Cup final clashes with the men's singles final at Wimbledon!
- Benfica won the Portuguese Super Cup, beating Lisbon rivals Belenenses 2-0 in the second-leg of the match between the defending First Division champions and winners of the Portuguese Cup. The victory at Belenenses' Restelo Stadium gave Benfica the trophy on a 4-0 aggregate following a 2-0 home win in the first-leg. Swedish star striker Mats Magnusson continued his goal scoring run, knocking a fierce right-foot shot to clinch the game in the 75th minute.
- Former French national team coach Henri Michel has been approached by top Egyptian club Zamalek. Michel was replaced by Michel Platini 14 months ago.
- Peter Kohl, the assistant coach of the East German national team, has joined the exodus to West Germany — as have at least 25 First Division players.
- The French president of the UEFA, the governing body of European Soccer, won't stand for re-election next year. Jacques Georges took over from Italian Artemio Franchi in 1984. Another Italian, Antonio Matarrese, is expected to succeed Georges.
- East German players will be allowed to transfer abroad as from January 1, 1990. Most are expected to be signed by West German clubs.
- Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino visited Rio last week. The Brazilian press speculated he had come to negotiate with star Brazilian striker Bebeto — who would take over from Diego Maradona, who is expected to leave the club after next year's World Cup finals.
- Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim has added former Real Madrid and Anderlecht midfielder Milan Jankovic to his squad to replace Mehmed Badzarevic, who has been suspended for one year by FIFA.



Lothar Matthaus (Inter Milan and West Germany).

Declining crowds a huge worry in Italy

ITALIAN soccer is heading towards its sixth consecutive year in the red as a result of declining attendance and gate receipts.

The Italian First Division fields some of the world's biggest stars and is considered the best soccer show on Earth.

But halfway through the season, attendance is down by half a million and the league has suffered a net loss of \$6 million.

The soccer fever expected to coincide with the 1990 World Cup in Italy has not materialised.

Club officials have urged the Italian league to take action against what they perceive to be the main factors for the flight of fans: soccer-related violence and an overdose of soccer on Italian television.

Paolo Borea and Marino Mariottini, managers of Sampdoria of Genoa and Udinese,

say the heavy coverage by private and state-run networks has induced fans to follow the matches from arm chairs rather than from the stands, especially during chilly winter months.

"There is an orgy of soccer on television every week. It must be reduced dramatically," said Borea.

"Television is emptying the stadiums," claimed Mariottini.

Italian networks cannot telecast major league matches live but they broadcast a large number of taped matches and highlight shows on the same day.

According to the latest figures released by the league, attendance after 17 rounds this season totalled 4,041 million, down 513,000 from the same period of the previous season.

Despite an average hike of 10 percent in the cost of tickets, gate re-

ceipts in the first half of the season dropped to \$96 million from \$102 million a year earlier.

Television networks pay tens of millions of dollars to the Italian League for broadcast rights, which are redistributed in part to the clubs.

State-run RAI Television has invested about \$60 million for soccer telecasts this season.

While the television audience for sports is steadily growing, the number of fans going to the stadiums has been declining since 1985.

Giampiero Boniperti, the president of Juventus, cited high ticket prices for the drop in attendance while some experts emphasised that several stadiums had a reduced capacity due to modernisation works for the World Cup.

Despite tighter security inside and outside stadiums, violence flared in several Italian cities this season resulting in one death and dozens of injuries.

"Violence in the stadiums is a huge problem. I have asked my daughter to stay away from the soccer stadium," Arrigo Sacchi, the manager of European soccer champion AC Milan, said in a recent interview.

The Soccer Confederation said it would announce by next week where the team will stay prior to the opening round in Turin. The cities under consideration are Asti, San Giovanni and Saint Vincent.

World Cup holders Argentina will travel to Scotland for a friendly on March 28.

The visit by Argentina is the first of four warm-up matches the Scots have arranged as preparation for the World Cup finals.

Scotland, drawn in group C with Brazil, Sweden and Costa Rica, have also scheduled friendlies with Bulgaria on April 25, Egypt on May 16 and Poland on May 19, the SFA said.

Busy schedule for Brazil, Argentina

BRAZIL will play six games prior to the World Cup finals but postponed a decision on where the team will stay during the tournament.

Coach Sebastiao Lazaroni met with officials of the Brazilian Soccer Confederation in Rio to define the team's schedule of preparation for the Cup, which opens June 8 in Rome.

Lazaroni said the Brazilian team would face Austria, England, Romania and Bulgaria in exhibition games in Europe and Brazil.

All except Bulgaria are among the 24 teams qualified for the Cup.

The squad is to leave May 16 for Europe, where it will face a Madrid select, and later the Umbria team of Italy.

The game against Austria is scheduled for February 21 in Vienna but must be confirmed by Austrian soccer authorities.

If Austria declines, Brazil will play France, Poland or Ireland.

The next game is against England at Wembley on March 28.

Lazaroni said the World Cup squad will officially assemble April 16 at training camp in the mountain resort of Terespolis, 100km northeast of Rio.

On May 5, Brazil faces Romania. The sites under consideration are the midwestern cities of Campo Grande and Goiania and the Amazon River port of Belem.

Finally, on May 5 the team will play Bulgaria, in Rio or in Sao Paulo.

"These games will be extremely important," Lazaroni said. "Austria plays a style of soccer very similar to that of Sweden, combining strength and skill."

England inspires the Scottish team, playing in a 4-4-2 formation with a strong air game. Against Romania, we will face a style of play that's strong on marking, like the Europeans, and with the same ability of the South Americans."

Sweden and Scotland will be Brazil's opponents in the World Cup in Group C, which also contains Costa Rica.

The Soccer Confederation said it would announce by next week where the team will stay prior to the opening round in Turin. The cities under consideration are Asti, San Giovanni and Saint Vincent.



Bologna's Brazilian star, Geovani (left), and Napoli's Massimo Mauro strain every muscle as they rise for the elusive ball.

Scottish manager Andy Roxburgh said all the matches would be played at Hampden Park. Argentina last played

in Glasgow 11 years ago when they beat Scotland 3-1 thanks to a virtuoso performance from a young Diego Maradona.

Big changes in Czechoslovakia



JOE VENGLOS

WHETHER the extraordinary pace of political change in Czechoslovakia will affect the national team's World Cup preparations is too soon to say but certainly everyone now has greater interests and preoccupations than soccer.

When weightier social and political matters are eventually settled the cry will doubtless come for a return to an FA outside of the general Sports Council able to take its own decisions as existed up to 1948.

But first the freedom of contracts and top players transfers will be under the microscope.

National coach Joe Venglos does not believe the changes will affect his team's chances in Italy, but the current mood in the country is not conducive to any serious training.